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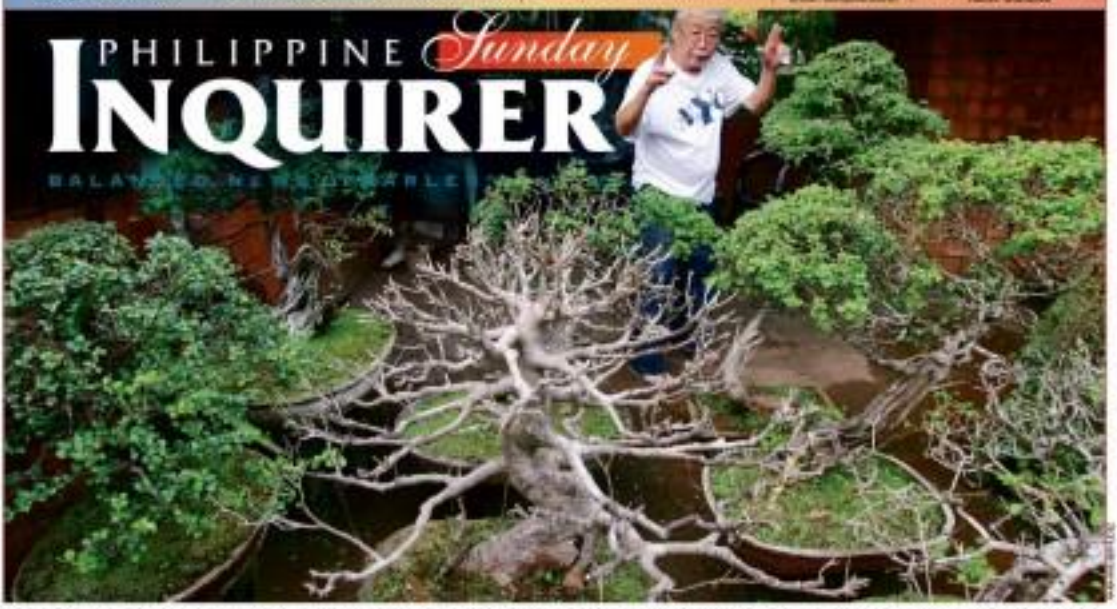
PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS COVERAGE



THE SILENT WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE As one of the country's top bonsai artists, defense witness Demetrio Vicente welcomes the bayanan to the bonsai forest of about 2,000 mini trees in Gen. Ordoñez Street, Marikina City, which he claims as his witness for Chief Justice Renato Corona, who is accused, among other things, of owning the property where his creations have been thriving for the past 21 years. (See story below.)

Japan to set up shop here

Terrorist still alive? AFP wants proof of life

By DJ Yap and Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

SHOW proof of life.

Like doubting Thomases, military officials yesterday challenged a Malaysian security official to produce evidence that Zulkifli bin Abdul Hir aka Marwan, the Malaysian extremist with a $5-million bounty on his head, was still alive.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) maintains its position that Marwan was killed in a recent Philippine air strike in Sulu contrary to reports that he survived the operation and is alive," said AFP public affairs chief Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos.

Any claim to the contrary, he said, must come with "conclusive proof of life."

Burgos was reacting to the statement issued to the Agence France-Presse by Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay, deputy head of the Malaysian police force's counterterrorism unit that said Marwan is still alive.

Western Mindanao Command chief Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes also said his stand remained that Marwan and two other Jemaah Islamiyah opera-

TERRORIST A14

External trade survey rates PH 'least problematic'

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE JAPANESE are back and a euphoric President Aquino says he expects the wave of Japanese investments currently pouring into the country to continue for some time.

After Japan's power, infrastructure and supply chain were laid waste by the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident exactly a year ago this month, Japan's businessmen are looking to expand outside their country and are taking a very strong interest in the Philippines, Mr. Aquino said.

The President's bullish expectations are supported by the country's businessmen who believe that Japan's renewed interest in the Philippines will pave the way for other foreign investors to follow.

"Japan has 50 nuclear reactors and of the 50, only three are still operating. It's no joke to lose almost 50 nuclear plants and that is a major factor in [businesses] moving some of their operations out of Japan and bringing them here. I believe Japan will continue to be one of our biggest investors," Mr. Aquino said in an interview.

The President is anchoring his rosy outlook on Japanese investments on last year's data on foreign direct investments (FDI) which surged to P256.1 billion, 30.6 percent higher than the P196.1 billion registered in 2010. It was also the highest since the P241.1 billion mobilized

JAPAN A13

AQUINALDO SAMA Cadet First Class Ernesto Bacolas Jr. of Tuboh City, Kalinga, receives the Aguinaldo Saber for academic excellence from Emiliano Santos Taiwan, great granddaughter of the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo on Saturday, one of the PMA graduations in Baguio. (Story on Page A4.)

On 30th trial day, bean counters reign

By Raul C. Pangalangan

THE DEFENSE began with a brazenly political witness, and then proceeded to show that Chief Justice Corona actually earned enough money to support his spending. Finally, they showed that, for each property missing from Corona's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), there is actually an explanation. The prosecution's impulse was either to calculate the witness' credibility, as ask which value—the acquisition cost (typically low-

COMMENTARY

ON 30TH A15

Angara 1st Asian named to royal Spanish academy

By TJ Burgonio

THE PRESTIGIOUS Real Academia Hispano Americana de Ciencias, Artes y Letras de Cadiz (Hispanic American Royal Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters) has a new member from Asia.

Sen. Edgardo Angara is the first Asian to be appointed Corresponding Academic Member of the academy, founded in 1909 with King Alfonso XIII as it first honorary president, to promote cultural ties between Spain and the Hispanic nations of Latin America.

The academy is a corporation

ANGARA A13

'Silent witness' for CJ: Cousin's bonsai forest

By Tarra Quismundo

SO THOSE who doubted if he's really the owner of the questioned 2,400-square-meter Marikina Heights lot, impeachment trial witness Demetrio Vicente "invites" his opponents' counsels as "witness."

The 70-year-old master of transplanted Chief Justice Renato Corona shares all his bonsai collection as proof that he owns the property that prosecutors argue still belongs to the magistrate now on trial.

"They can't say this property

SILENT! A17

'Dr. Fill' crosses words with humans in contest

NEW YORK—What is a 10-letter word for smarty pants?

This weekend the world may find out when computer technology again tries to best human brains, this time at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in Brooklyn, New York.

Computers can make mincemeat of chess masters and vanquish the champions of "Jeopardy!" The question is: Can

DR. FILL! A19

WHAT'S INSIDE

ENTERTAINMENT • **Denise** Laurel finds refuge in grandparents Doy and Celia Laurel's hilltop hideaway

ENTERTAINMENT • **Wealthy** benefactor dumps unstable actress **LIFESTYLE** • **Filipino** architect Daniel Romualdez's design of Tory Burch's mansion featured in March issue of Vogue • Living with seniors **NEWS** • **Bin Laden** plotted to kill Obama, seized files say • **Cristina** Corona to testify in May

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Manila
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Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Davao

Partly Cloudy

6/42	14 22
4D	18 4
3D	20 35
SUERTRES	
2D	1 1 9
3D	8 8 0
4D	6 6 3

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6/49 LUZ, VIS, MIN	
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6/55 GRAND LOTTO	
	3 7 34 38 48 50
	P68,650,349.20

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Defense: Is offense impeachable?

need a job?

By TJ Burgonio

THE IMPEACHMENT court should rule on whether or not Chief Justice Renato Corona's failure to declare the acquisition costs of his properties in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) constitutes an impeachable offense, defense lawyers said yesterday.

If this were an offense, then all the government officials who followed the prevailing practice of using the fair market value, not acquisition cost, as the basis for declaring the worth of properties in their SALNs should also be held liable, defense lawyer and spokesperson Tranquil Salvador III argued.

"Before you make a ruling on the Chief Justice, is it something that could be reviewed? Is it something that could be corrected? That will lead us to the final question: Is that an impeachable offense? Assuming it's a misconception, does it suffice now to remove him from office?" Salvador told reporters after a forum.

These questions should be resolved by the senator-judges before they issue a verdict, he said.

Corona filed in the fair market value column pertaining to his properties, but left the column of their acquisition cost blank in his 2010 SALN, which was also observed in his SALNs dating back to 2002.

Defense spokesperson Raven Jimeno wondered if such an act would constitute an impeachable offense when government officials, apart from justices, also subscribed to such a practice in the filing of their SALNs.

"If the other government officials, including impeachable officers, failed to fill out everything (including the acquisition cost column), the question that arises is, is that an impeachable offense?... We're still studying that to show if it's relevant to the merits of the case, or if this is an institutional practice," she told the forum at Annabel's restaurant.

She also argued that there was a motivation in the law allowing an official to correct figures in his or her SALN, and that in Corona's case, if there were errors, he could still rectify them.

All officials liable

She said it was convenient to say if the defense would present the SALNs of other government officials to show that this was the prevalent practice.

Salvador said it was logical to say that if the impeachment court finds this to be an impeachable offense, then all the officials who subscribed to this practice should also be held liable.

"That would be a natural consequence. If and when, let's say he's acquitted on the sole basis that he did not fill up the acquisition cost column, this should lead the government to reexamine all filings of public officers, from top to bottom, if there were diligent and prudent compliance with the SALN," he said.

The prosecution claimed on Friday that Corona underdeclared his net worth in his 2010 SALN, pointing out that he should have declared a net worth of P80 million based on the acquisition costs of his assets and bank deposits, instead of P522 million.

Fatal to defense

Defense lawyers said they would present witnesses to clarify the issue of acquisition cost in Corona's SALN, in the hope of getting favorable testimony in line Thursday's trial. They said this would not constitute Corona's testimony.

"We're not yet there," Salvador said. "We're still the ones presenting, how sooner they (prosecutors) are coming out with such opinions? They need to claim there was only a P320-million discrepancy. If there's anybody who should make such a conclusion it's the senator-judges."

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., a member of the prosecution panel, insisted the Chief Justice's failure to disclose the real acquisition cost of his SALN was "fatal" to his defense.

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Mendoza suffers heart attack

FORMER Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza was rushed to St. Luke's Medical Center at Bonifacio Global City yesterday afternoon after suffering a heart attack.

Former Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chair Thompson Lantoria said Mendoza was celebrating his birthday in advance at a resort in San Juan, Batangas, when the incident happened at around 4 p.m. He will turn 63 on March 24.

"He needed to be airlifted to the hospital after he complained of feeling dizzy then suddenly lying on the ground," Lantoria said in a telephone interview.

"His doctors say he is in stable condition but he needs to be observed for 24 hours."

Prior to his appointment as former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "Lilib Premiere," Mendoza served as transportation secretary. He signed the scandal-tainted $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN)-deal with China's ZTE Corp. in 2007.

Last Tuesday, the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division ordered the arrest of Mendoza, Arroyo and husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos for a graft case over the aborted NBN-ZTE deal. Nathaniel R. Mis-lican

Defense says it will call Cristina Corona in May

By Tj Burgonio

DON'T expect the defense panel in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona to end its presentation this week with "fireworks" before the senator-judges take a break for Holy Week. Neither Cristina Corona nor any other "star witness" will take the stand just yet.

The Corona defense team has promised to present a host of witnesses to discredit briefly 2 of the impeachment trial, but they are "lightweight" witnesses compared to Cristina or even the Chief Justice himself.

Congress adjourns on March 23 and no session resumes on May 7.

Defense counsel and spokesperson Tranquil Salvador III said the panel would not present Cristina as a witness for her husband until May.

Presenting Cristina as a witness is not so much a matter of defense strategy as a matter of "need," according to Salvador. Her appearance would largely depend on the flow of witnesses and their testimonies, he added.

No 'star witness'

"We're laying out evidence, and in laying the evidence, there is a path you will see. You draw a direction, and when the direction reaches that point where we need to present Mrs. Corona, then we will do it. So we can't say when she will testify," he said.

Earlier in a press forum at Ateneo de Manila said its Quezon City Salvador said the defense panel had no "star witnesses" to present.

His colleague, lawyer Kiko Pangilinan, said the session should give everyone, including the judges, prosecution and defense lawyers, a "second wind" before the final stretch of the closing trial in May and June.

Not a delay

This, however, did not mean that the defense was delaying the presentation of its evidence, another defense spokesperson, Rarra Enrile, said.

In compliance with impeachment rules, the defense withheld the identities of their witnesses five days ahead of the start of the presentation.

The defense lawyers, however, said the Coronas himself was the best person to answer the issues of his involvement in Basa-Castolo Enterprises Inc. (BCEI), the corporation created by his wife's family that has gained prominence in the trial.

Reacting to a story by rappler.com that said Corona himself had negotiated the sale of BCEI's property in Manila, Salvador said: "I don't want to touch on that. If he's going to take the witness stand, it will appear that we will be explaining this ahead of his testimony.

"If I said it right, his request is that he should be the one to explain, which I think is the better way of doing it. Besides, we have no personal knowledge of it."

Property negotiation

The story said Corona and his wife met with then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to negotiate the sale of the 1,020-square-meter lot on Legarda Street, "versus [swap]" of the Basa-Castolo family corporation, agreeing on the price P34.7 million. The city government later issued a check to Cristina "in trust" for BCEI.

In his own statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, Corona listed "cash advances" from BCEI representing payment for his properties.

The defense panel, however, said it was too early to say if Corona himself would testify at the trial.

"It's hard to say whether this would hasten the whole thing. We have yet to see if this is needed. There are those pushing for his testimony since he's the accused. If we decided to put him on the stand on the last day, we still would have called in the other witnesses that we presented," Enrile said.

OFW in Paris held for baby's death

By Tina G. Santos

AN OVERSEAS Filipino worker (OFW) in France landed in jail after her 16-month-old ward drowned, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The incident happened on March 12 when the OFW, whose identity was withheld, allegedly left the baby in a tub, the foreign office said.

It said Dijon police informed the Philippines Embassy about the Filipina domestic's arrest.

"The embassy immediately exerted all efforts to ensure that our OFW was provided with a lawyer so that she would be amply represented," the DFA said.

It added that the OFW was transferred to the Perrey Mevegis prison in the suburbs of Dijon on Friday.

"She was also given a court-appointed lawyer. But the embassy's request for visit and bail has not yet been granted," the DFA said, adding that the woman's next of kin in the Philippines had been informed of the incident.

Maaasahan, lalo na sa oras ng pangangailangan.

Before typhoon Ruman struck the town of Hinunangan in Southern Leyte last year, volunteers from 40 barangays were able to receive timely text broadcasts from the municipal disaster risk reduction and management office. This gave them time to alert and prepare their respective communities.

Through the Smart network which remained operational throughout the ordeal, their headquarters were also able to gather timely reports from the ground, allowing them to manage their response efforts and resources.

Hinunangan is one of the 33 pilot towns under the "Strengthening Disaster Preparedness through SMS technology" program of the Philippine Business for Social Progress in Southern Leyte – considered one of the most calamity-prone provinces in the entire country. Due to its location and topography, it faces the risk of not only earthquakes and typhoons, but also tsunamis, flash floods, landslides and in the case of some towns, even ground fissuring and liquefaction.

In partnership with Smart and through a grant from the World Bank, this project uses a seemingly simple tool – text messaging – to help local disaster management units, barangay officials, volunteers and citizens coordinate.

Using Smart's Mikhweet – a web and SMS-based information dissemination and feedback-gathering system – they can instantly send and receive accurate weather bulletins, up-to-the-minute situation reports and calls for assistance. Through their mobile phones, Southern Leyte officials united in facing disasters, even in times when they were separated by landslide-prone mountains and rough stormy seas.

Reliability, resilience and reach – these have long been the strengths of Smart's network, keeping communities connected, even in the face of natural calamities. But more than being able to respond quickly during disasters, Smart is empowering communities to be better prepared for calamities through reliable and effective communications.

In times when you need it most – Smart, kasasalan.

SMART
LIVE MORE

CSC shelves more comprehensive SALN form

By Leila B. Salaverria

SEEN a less and ary from lawmakers, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has deferred the use of a new form for the filing of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) that would require public officials to disclose all their sources of income and detailed estimates of family expenses.

In a resolution, the CSC said it would review the concerns raised about the new SALN form.

It also said public officials may use the old form in filing their SALNs for 2011, due dead- line for which is on April 30.

But those who have already filed their SALNs using the new form need not file a new one, and are deemed to have complied with the requirement to disclose their assets and liabilities, the CSC said.

In its resolution, the commission said the new SALN form was created in compliance with the laws requiring the filing of such statements. But it decided to postpone its use because of the concerns raised by various sectors.

"The commission maintains that the revised SALN form is anchored on enhancing laws that require the submission of a SALN. However, keeping an open mind, the commission agreed to undertake a more thorough and comprehensive review of the issues raised as it will greatly affect the proper filing out of the revised SALN form," it said.

Cries against SALN

The cries against the SALN came mostly from the House of Representatives, the Senate and various organizations of government employees, namely the Philippine Government Employees Association, Local Government Mechanized Employees Association of the Philippines, Anak Lahat Network on Internal and External Investments, and National Convention of Government Employees Working Council.

The House committee on civil service and professional regulation passed a resolution asking the CSC to suspend the legality of the new form, while a counterpart Senate committee wrote the CSC warning that the new form had a possible constitutional infirmity illegality or impracticality.

The Senate committee, as well as the various groups, also said many government workers did not have sufficient knowledge to accomplish the form properly and had not fully comprehended the requirements in filling it out.

The new or revised SALN form requires civil servants to declare the estimated amounts of their personal and family expenses. These could include groceries, water and electricity bills, as well as allowances for mobile phones, plans, clothing and travel and even education.

They would also have to disclose the amount and source of their gross income, aside from their salaries, if any. They were also to avail to tell the amount of income taxes they paid.

Old requirements

The old SALN form only required civil servants to declare their assets, consisting of real, personal and other properties; liabilities, such as loans or mortgages; business interests and financial connections; and relatives in the government services.

The SALN have was revised in order to comply with the provisions of the antigraft law, which requires the disclosure of public officials' sources of income, amount of family expenses and income taxes paid.

The SALN is also only confidential until the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

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Gazmin: PMA graduates joining cleaner, reformed armed forces

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City— The graduating Philippine Military Academy "Bagsik" Class of 2012 will be joining a 'cleaner' Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), which has undergone reforms and modernization, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said here on Saturday.

"The young officers are the fresh well-spring of new knowledge and high principles in public service. Your entry comes at an ideal time, as you are now entering the professional armed forces. Gone are the discredited malpractices of the past that had cast doubt on the professionalism of our armed forces," Gazmin told the 107 members of the graduating class.

"Ours now is the true essence of the genuine ideals of public service, good governance, transparency and accountability," he said.

Later he told reporters: "I am saying that with full confidence because we have instituted several reforms and the reforms have been appreciated by all sectors, to include the media, and we make sure that the malpractices that have been committed before will not be committed again."

Instead, he said, the Aquino administration has embarked on a military logistical upgrade to improve the skills, capacity and benefits of the soldiers.

In his speech before the cadets, Gazmin said: "Today we have a commander in chief who really cares for the needs of our soldiers, so that they can comfortable the discharge of their constitutional duty.

"Realizing the needs of our soldiers into a high state of morale, we have implemented an amount of P2M per month as combat allowances for our soldiers who are engaged in combat duties. This is in addition to the P1000 per month that they have been receiving as combat pay."

He said the government had been building more than 30,000 houses for the families of soldiers in Central and southern Luzon. Similar housing facilities will be made available in the Visayas and Mindanao, he said.

"The implementation of our modernization program is currently in full swing. Soon-to-arriving the acquisition of military platforms and equipment, our defense department and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are working on the approval of contracts [for] the 'Oh my God' initiatives projects that will be implemented in the next five years," he said. Desiree Cabrera and Lara Tabinas-ag, Inquirer Northern Luzon

I was cleared, says ex-BIR man

By TJ Burgonio

PASAY—Salazar had long retired as assistant commissioner at the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), but he is dogged to the day by cases filed against him that had already been dismissed.

Salazar lamented that up to now online news still carried stories about his being charged before the Ombudsman and the Office of the President (OP) for violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Still the same had been dismissed in 2009 and 2007, he said.

"My relatives know that I had been cleared. But none of the charges are still there. I feel bad. When the charges came out, we were humiliated. Our partners were plastered on the front pages," said the former commissioner, 77, who spoke with and furnished the Inquirer copies of the resolutions.

Salazar worked at the BIR for 41 years, saying he sought the ranks to become assistant commissioner, a position he held until he retired in 2004.

In January 2010, the OP citing lack of evi-

Arias, dismissed the charges filed by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism against Salazar for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials.

PCIJ's complaint stemmed from the alleged failure of Salazar in file a true and detailed statement of assets and liabilities, which should have included inheritance to certain properties in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

In November 2007, the Ombudsman also dismissed the charges against Salazar for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Republic Act No. 1379 and falsification of public documents for lack of probable cause.

The complainant, intelligence officer Napoleon Guerrero of the Department of Finance's General Management Information Office, accused Salazar of conniving with his wife and children to commit loan payments of land without worth, he claimed, was beyond the official's means.

Guerrero alleged that Salazar used Phoenix Printing Philippines Inc., in which his wife and children were majority shareholders, as a dummy corporation to conceal the properties. Salazar denied owning the properties which he said were acquired by the corporation.

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PH ready for joint dev't with China, says defense chief

By Dedrex Cabico
Inquirer Mindanao

FORT ORD, PILAR, Bataan City—The Philippines continues to assert its stake over the disputed Spratlys in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) but is ready for joint development negotiations being proposed by China, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said here on Saturday.

The defense chief also said the country was concerned about the increase in China's military budget but "as long as it is transparent about how they spend their military budget," it would not be a problem.

Gazmin graced the pregraduation program for the Philippine Military Academy "Dagiti" Class of 2012. President Aquino is the guest speaker of today's graduation where he will also commission new officers from the 207 members of the class.

"We are amenable to the [Chinese offer of joint cooperation] but do keep in it our turf to our favor," Gazmin said.

"So [Mr. Aquino] said, what is ours is ours. China can be allowed to have a joint venture, but it should be based on our rules," the secretary said.

Newly installed Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Ma Keqing had offered to hold talks for joint cooperation in developing the contested Spratlys. While she acknowledged in a recent press briefing the 11.2-percent increase in China's military appropriations, she said her country would not pose any threat to Southeast Asian nations that are also claiming ownership of the Spratlys.

Pointing to reports that China would increase its defense budget to 670.27 billion yuan ($106.41 billion) this year, Gazmin said: "It is [China's] utmost to increase its military [budget]. We maintain that we have little to control about [the increase] in its spending[.]"

But he also insisted: "But as long as there is transparency, we should not be worried about it. [Asian transparent [sic] suggests why any nation is sure [as long as they are transparent in how they spend their military budget]."

Last week, the Armed Forces of the Philippines formally received four of eight new combat utility helicopters which it had bought from a Poland-based aircraft manufacturer.

The helicopters, which landed at Air Force City in Clark Field, Pampanga, are far more advanced than any helicopter currently in use by the Philippine Air Force, officials said.

But Gazmin stressed the country was heading on controversially accepted laws and regulations to settle any disputes.

"[China] also accepts the rules-based approach, which is our main approach," Gazmin said.

The Philippines has to date two parts of the Spratlys on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which provides laws such as [illegible] and how it can use those resources.

Both the Philippines and China signed and ratified the convention.

"But [China is] saying that it is not only Unclos that should be considered [as a basis for talks]," Gazmin said, adding that the treaty is only one of the mechanisms for addressing the Spratly dispute.

DFA warns public on fake e-mails

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) warned the public on Friday about fake e-mails supposedly coming from the government agency.

The warning came after the Philippine Embassy in Singapore reported that a Filipino there received an e-mail from "scienceinsight@dfa.gov.ph."

The e-mail told the Filipino was the subject of a request for a waiver of arrest "for his illegal[sic] detainment in some circumstances [sic]."

"The DFA wishes to inform the public that the above-mentioned e-mail account is not an official DFA account," the Foreign Affairs said.

Notices of legal proceedings are never sent through e-mail and applications for the issuance of warrants of arrest are filed before the courts and not the Department of Justice, it said.

"The public is advised not to fall victim to this modus operandi and to report any such e-mails to the DFA. Be assured Philippine embassy or consulate or the National Bureau of Investigation's Technical Intelligence Division [illegible] get[s] it," the DFA said.

Tina G. Santos

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P-Noy: Lower and off-peak road tolls a possibility

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT is considering reducing the fees on the country's toll roads and even allowing their use for free during off-peak hours, President Aquino said in a forum with business leaders on Friday night.

The possible reduction in tolls was one of the measures the President cited when he was asked what the government intended to do to cushion the impact of rising oil prices on the transport sector.

"There are various members of the private sector who are proposing that, for instance, toll roads there will be a reduction on the concern in terms of the fees charged," Mr. Aquino said in the forum during the 20th anniversary of the Asia Business Club.

He said such relief would ease the burden of the transport sector and "therefore, the consumers, as the jeepney's that are being transported through these toll roads."

"I'll invest (saying said) that there is a possibility that for certain off peak hours, it might be totally free but even a discount will be helpful," the President said.

"So we have been understanding a dialogue with the transport sector among others," he added.

The other measures the government has implemented to help the transport sector include the fuel subsidy program and loan facilities for transport cooperatives.

Pantawid Pasada Program

"Among the things that we have been doing is the Pantawid Pasada Program, which gives them a subsidy," Mr. Aquino said.

"There is a facility of the Development Bank of the Philippines wherein they can form cooperatives. It can lend up to P10 million in set up their own gas stations. Therefore, one of the benefits of the gas station will accrue to the transport sector," he said.

The President said National Economic and Development Authority Director General and Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Ilumbings had been talking to manufacturers of vans, batteries and spare parts "to get them evidence that there are as many vantag of their sorts of doing business."

Mr. Aquino made the remarks a day after transport groups led by the Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) staged a caravan to protest of the government's alleged inaction in the wake of the rising cost of fuel.

Militant groups have asked the government to abolish the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products because of their already exorbitant cost. They also asked the government to repeal the Oil Deregulation Law.

While the government has said that it would review the oil deregulation measure, Malacañang imposed a deadline on the implementation of the VAT on oil.

Asked if the government had made a determination of at what level of fuel price it would start reviewing the implementation of the VAT, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda merely reiterated the administration's line of ensuring enough resources for public services.

Best interest of the people

"According to the Department of Finance the government is committed to undertake what is in the best interest of the Filipino people, and at this point, the government believes that the public is best served by ensuring that adequate funds are available to finance needed social and economic services," Lacierda said in a text message on Friday.

Presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said in Aydan's name briefing in Malacañang that these were the measures that the government has implemented for the public transport sector which is suffering from the high cost of fuel.

Asked if it was reasonable for the government to use the windfall earnings from the VAT on oil for the benefit of the transport sector, Valte said, "We have been taking several steps to address that issue. We don't just have short-term solutions but we have long-term solutions to address their concerns."

Among the short-term solutions the government has implemented for the public transport sector is the subsidy for fuel as the Pantawid Pasada Program, while one long-term measure is the development of alternative sources of energy.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - March 18, 2012
4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm and refrain

All the heads of the priesthood and the people, too, were recently unfaithful, following the disgusting example of the various unsound them, and so they defiled the house which Yahweh himself had made holy. Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, continued to send prophets to warn his people, as one he had compassion on this record on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, ignored his words, and laughed at the prophets, until at last the anger of Yahweh rose so high against his people that there was no hidden remedy.

They burned down the Temple of God, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his descendants as slaves until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of Yahweh was fulfilled that he spoke by Jeremiah, "The land will lie desolate for seventy years, to make up for its Sabbath rests that have not been observed."

And in the first year of Cyrus King of Persia, to fulfill what he had said through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia to issue the following proclamation throughout all of nothing or he read aloud everywhere in his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has ordered me to build him a house in Jerusalem, in Judah. Any of you who belong to his people, go there and may Yahweh your God be with you."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

By grace you are saved

God, who is rich in mercy, revealed his immense love. As we were dead through our sins, he gave us life with Christ. By grace you have been saved! And he raised us to life with Christ, giving us a place with him in heaven.

In showing us such kindness to Christ Jesus, God willed to reveal and exhibit for the centuries to come the overflowing riches of his grace. By the grace of God you have been saved through faith. This has not come from you: it is God's gift. This was not the result of your works, so you are not to boast proud. What we are is God's work. He has created us in Christ Jesus for the good works he has prepared and we should live our lives as he wants us to them.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Good news for sin

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have life."

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not live, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

"This is how the judgment is made: Light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown up as evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light so that it can be clearly seen that his works have been done for God."

Reflection

Read

John 3:14-21 - Gospel conversation with Nicodemus when Jesus reveals himself as the Son.

Reflect

Pope Benedict pointed out that "the Son" is the most important title of Jesus. Being the Son is more than being Son of God or Son of Man in scriptures. Jesus revealed to us his primary relationship with the Father at their wrongs when this Life is How.

Pray

Reflect in your prayer how you experienced God's love through Jesus. Let this encounter lead you to a deeper faith.

Act

Love is something that you give away. Find ways to express and share the love of God to others today.

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PNP, Interpol ties made stronger

PUBLIFOTO: National Police (PNP) Director General Nicanor Bartolome met recently with Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble in Lyon, France, to discuss increased cooperation between the Philippines and the world's police organization in combating a range of transnational crimes.

Bartolome, also head of Interpol's National Central Bureau in Manila, updated the Interpol chief on plans to expand the PNP's access to the latter's secure global police communications system I-24/7 and its newly established FusionFile for counterterrorism.

Discussions also included the Philippines' recent participation in the International Fugitive Round-Up and Surrender Day Asia that was held in Bangkok, Thailand, which focused on sharing information relating to 60 suspects from 11 countries wanted in connection with child sex offenses.

"Cooperation with Interpol is a priority area for police in the Philippines. My meeting with Secretary General Noble provided an important opportunity to reaffirm the need for international cooperation with Interpol," Bartolome said in a statement.

He said the meeting also helped to "identify areas such as terrorism, counterdrug operations and fugitive investigation where we can collaborate even more closely." RVSan

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GSIS should give members benefits despite employers' deficiencies–COA

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) should not deprive its members of the maximum benefits just because their employers had been late or delinquent in remitting their premiums, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

In a recent report on the GSIS, the COA said that P11.77 million in premiums that were in arrears and the corresponding interest were deducted from members' income claims in 2010 because their employers were late in remitting premiums, or the remittances were not posted on time.

As a result, the members did not get the full benefits to which they were entitled by the SSS.

The P11 million in deductions were made in the GSIS regional offices in Tacloban, Catubau, Bicolog, and Dumaguete cities.

But the COA said the delays in remitting premiums and reporting of remittances could not be blamed on the GSIS members, thus they should not be penalized.

It is the employers' responsibility to see to it that GSIS payments are made on time, the COA said.

Primary obligation

"In the first place, GSIS should consider that members are not at fault when the employers incurred delays in remitting or did not remit, thus, they should not be penalized for this. It is not the responsibility of the employees but the primary obligation of the employers concerned since deductions were already done from the salaries of the members," it said.

It added that the GSIS should have pursued the collections from the agencies concerned instead of shifting the burden to the paying members. It pointed out that under the GSIS law, employers are required to remit GSIS contributions within the first 10 days of the calendar month following the month to which the contributions apply.

On remittances that were unposted or not yet credited to the members' account even though these were actually paid, the COA found that the GSIS could resort to indemnities on the members' part and deducted from claims pursuant to the Claims and Loans Indemnification Policy.

According to COA, members should not suffer the consequences stemming from the lapses of the GSIS concerned personnel.

"The practice of collecting the premiums in arrears and interest from the money claims of members is to protect the interest of GSIS and prevent the payment of undue benefits and at the same time exonerate the government agencies from their obligation to remit the personal and government shares which are contrary to the provisions of [the GSIS law]," it added.

In response, the GSIS in Tacloban City said the premiums in arrears were unpaid premiums resulting from salary increases when the increases were still based on the old salary rate. It also said that a reconciliation was made since June 15, 2010. The refund of premiums is in process and interest is ongoing.

Recommendations

The COA recommended that the GSIS send public billings to agencies with unpaid premiums and discontinue the practice of indemnifying claims from the members' claims. It also said the GSIS should refund the premiums and corresponding interest incorrectly deducted from the members' claims.

It suggested that the GSIS enhance its communications program so that members' accounts would reflect all postings promptly. The GSIS should also see to it that the accounts of retirees and members were updated before their retirement benefits computed.

Huling pagkakataon upang maisaayos ang inyong Pag-IBIG housing loan account

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Sa Pag-IBIG, ang pinaghirapan may katuparan

Palace: Dole program won't use coco levy fund

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday denied it was going to dip into the sequestered coconut levy funds to finance its conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

Deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte the allegations made by militant peasant groups, stating that an administration has enough funds to support the CCT. A coconut tradition group had also asked to defer any money to some three million families that keep their children in school and undertake counter-reporting.

"There's no truth to that. The funding for our CCT comes from the national budget and a part of it from a loan that we took out from years ago," Valte said in yesterday's radio briefing over state radio dzRB.

Valte said $1.1 million in dollars would benefit from the CCT through national budget allocations while 900,000 other families would get receive cash from the loan.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said the fund-using Department of Agriculture or Republican matters said Malacañang to "lay off the coco levy funds" amid reports the administration was planning to use the sequestered funds for the CCT.

KMP deputy secretary-general Willy Madrid in yesterday said the peasant groups received "reliable information" that the National Anti-Poverty Commission was planning to use the multi-billion peso coco levy fund for the CCT.

Madrid's militant group has been vocal in advocating since last year among peasant groups and agrarian reform advocates.

The coco levy funds have been the subject of years of litigation between the government, San Miguel Corp. and coco levy leaders/committees. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the coco levies, imposed during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, were public funds.

The two funds involved in San Miguel are estimated to have between P83 billion and P100 billion.

"We challenge the Department of Agriculture and Philippine Coconut Authority to block the attempt by the Aquino administration to use the small coconut farmers' money for the CCT," Madrid said.

PCGG hopes auction of Marcos properties would bring ₱315M

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) is set to auction off next month two palatial properties owned by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in at least P315 million.

PCGG Chair Andres Bautista said yesterday the government would put up for public bidding on April 24 a 4,000-sqm commercial and residential property at Pasadena City and a 1,075.57-sqm lot in Baguio City. The two properties were surrendered to the government by close Marcos associate Jose Yao Campos in 1986.

The Pasadena lot, known as the Mapalad property on Santa Rosa Boulevard, is expected to go for at least P213.07 million. The one in Baguio, the Rizal Mount residential lot on Outlook Drive North, is estimated to be worth more P97.2 million.

Bautista said the auction was approved by the Department of Finance's Privatization Council.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to fund the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"We are confident that... the strategic location of the properties [would] attract more bidders, generating higher value," said PCGG Commissioner Roger Simarra.

The Pasadena property is located across from a major leisure and casino project while the one in Baguio is situated near popular tourist attractions.

While Marcos and his family fled abroad after his downfall in 1986, some of his key allies surrendered assets they were holding for the ex-president or part of ill-gotten gains with government.

The PCGG, tasked 25 years ago to recover Marcos' disputed wealth, has returned to the national government a total P93.624 billion worth of recovered and preserved assets.

The agency hopes to get back P626.72 million more this year.

However, the commission has long complained that the lack of a paper trail and delaying moves employed by lawyers for the Marcos estate prevented it from recovering more. With an AFP report

End state violence vs children, rights advocates urge

By Julie M. Aurelio

UNILF-military activities have increased since led operations in the provinces that have given rise to numbers of children being killed or victimized, even as they urged the Aquino administration to stop such atrocities.

In a press briefing yesterday, child rights advocates said the Aquino administration's counter-insurgency plan-code named Oplan Bayanihan-combined to "wreak havoc on rural communities," affecting mostly minor victims.

This year alone four children were killed in separate military actions in Laguna and Camarines Norte, according to Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) head Jacqueline Ruiz.

Ruiz said that children in communities where the Armed Forces of the Philippines conducted its operations suffered intense emotional trauma and social withdrawal and were uprooted from their regular lives and routines.

The CRC has recorded five killings, 27 frustrated killings, two rape cases, 10 attacks on schools and eight cases of children branded as child soldiers since President Aquino announced effort in 2010.

One of the latest incidents was the Feb. 20 shooting of two children and their father in Labo, Camarines Norte, after soldiers allegedly fired at the house of the Manzora family where a relief was resting.

On Feb. 16, a 15-year-old boy and his adult companion were shot after being tagged as rebels, but their relatives said the victims were just hauling for bars and bags to sell.

The child rights advocates also cited cases of military units reportedly occupying daycare centers in Northern Samar and Davao City since late last year, prompting the children to skip school.

The mother of the two Manzora children killed on Feb. 20 made a short but angry appeal for the military to stop the violence.

"Please make them soldiers stop us they won't be able to do such crimes to us," said Lourdes Manzora.

For her part, Christine Gutierrez of Bantaya, a rights group against extrajudicial killings, said, "It should be the children playing with PSP (portable PlayStation), not the President."

The advocates, to an appointee job at the administration, struck a needless, "noynoying" pose to stress their point.

It was in a yellow shirt pose on a mask which resembled the President and lounged around a table looking like he had nothing to do.

The "noynoying" pose first caught fire on Thursday as militant students, in a bid to go around the antiplunking threat of the authorities, mimicked what they called the "do-nothing" attitude of the Aquino administration like the oil price hikes and tuition increases.

'Noynoying' hurts, says prelate

SOFIG the truth hurts, retired Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday hoped Malacañang would "get the message" about the new form of militant protest: "noynoying."

Cruz, a known critic of the administration, said noynoying, which is characterized as being around doing nothing—a jab at President Aquino's supposedly "do-nothing" leadership style—was "not altogether false."

"The truth is painful. The term would be annoying but it is not altogether false," he said in an interview.

"The reality is the word is what makes it rather interesting and relevant. Otherwise, it is not worth the ire or disgust of Malacañang," he said.

Cruz said noynoying was "another novel expression in line with OMG" the protest term that stands for *bahlaan, kalimot at kabuktot* (Illiteracy, clumsiness and fellow-goes-ordinarian) that was coined by critics of Mr. Aquino to describe his close associates whom he appointed and continues to keep in office despite controversies surrounding some of them.

"Instead of becoming angry, Malacañang should get the message behind the tweet and the gestures that go with it," Cruz said.

Philip C. Salaver

Angara 1st Asian named to royal Spanish academy

From page A1

under Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is based in the historic Spanish city of Cuidad Encantada (enchanted city).

"That is a good honor not only for myself but also for the country and I think the Royal Academy for the incomparable opportunity to be a member of this academic community," Angara said.

He described the Royal Academy as one of Spain's leading intellectuals on the humanities "endowed with the unique role of promoting linkages with Hispanic nations in America."

According to Angara, the academy was now reaching out to Asia, primarily through the Philippines.

"We share a common heritage and a common goal—to once again become partners in economic, social and maritime development," he said.

Rekindling Spanish ties

Angara was nominated and appointed for his contributions in revitalizing and strengthening the Philippines' relations with Spain, Mexico and other Latin American nations with which it shares a common history and heritage of being a country ruled for the centuries in the Iberian peninsula, particularly Spain.

The senator's efforts to rekindle the Philippines' historic ties with Spain and Mexico led to the institutionalization of the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Act and the Dia de Galeon (Day of the Galleons) celebration, according to the profile.

Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day is celebrated every June 30. The first International Dia del Galeon Festival was held in September and October 2010, commemorating the inception of the galleon trade which flourished between 1565 and 1815 between Manila and Acapulco in Mexico. The Philippines played a key role in the trade route using galleons which linked Asia to Europe via Mexico.

Outstanding academic

Angara was awarded Spain's Premio Cruz Asia in 2010, the first Southeast Asian to win the foreign policy prize. He is also the Philippines' official representative to the Union Latina, an organization consisting of 37 member nations spanning the two Latin languages.

The senator was also cited as an outstanding academic and intellectual, having served as president of the University of the Philippines, and the first adversary of the development of education, culture and the arts.

Alicia Coordinator Bonifay, treasurer and member of the Royal Academy of Spanish Women, said the board approved the appointment of Angara as Corresponding Academic Member from March to February.

The Royal Academy has Corresponding Academic Members from Andorra, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Colombia, the Czech Republic and the United States.

Angara said he will be delivering his inaugural address as Corresponding Academic Member in Spanish during his induction ceremony.

Longest-serving senator

Angara is one of the country's longest-serving senators, having been elected to four consecutive six-year terms since 1987, except during a mandatory term break from 1995 to 2001. He served as president of the Senate from 1995 to 1995 during the term of President Fidel Ramos.

Angara, who served as president of the University of the Philippines from 1981 to 1987, started his political career when he was elected one of the delegates from Quezon province to the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

He served as agriculture secretary of deposed President Joseph Estrada from 1999 to January 2001, and then briefly served as Estrada's executive secretary from Jan. 6 to 20, 2001.

A founding member of the government agency, Cooperative, Coco, Regala and Abello (Accra) law office, he was president of the Philippine Bar Association and the integrated Bar of the Philippines in the 1970s.

In 1995, he became founding president of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Law Associations.

The Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Act and the Dia del Galeon were institutionalized through Angara's efforts to revive the country's ties with Spain and Mexico. Spain's colony in the Americas through which it administered the then Philippine colony.

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OPINION

Goal difference

EDITORIAL

SOMETIMES, even the greatest of goals can be obscured by the worst penalties. The national football team, more popularly known as the Philippine Azkals, continues on its drive to improve on the Philippines' history as a footballing nation. Since their breakout a few years ago, the Azkals have been at the helm of a surge in football popularity in a country that even has its own league—the United Football League—with regularly televised games, as well as a fan base that is both knowledgeable and fanatic in its following. They remain the biggest football attraction in town, and they recently did the Philippines proud with an unprecedented performance in the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In their best run yet, the Azkals downed India and Tajikistan to barge into the semifinals for the first time, setting a date with a Turkmenistan team that routed them, 6-3, in 2009. Against Turkmenistan on Friday, the Azkals actually went ahead, 1-0, before bowing out in a disservice endgame, 1-2. Nevertheless, the team—now ranked 156th in the world—did what it had set out to do, which was to improve on its previous performances, enough to nurture hope for a stronger showing in the future World Cup qualifiers.

Unfortunately, the Azkals are dogged by controversy in home, which takes some of the shine off their bright sojourn in Kathmandu for the Challenge Cup. Much of it has to do with the incident in the Azkals dugout at the Rizal Memorial Stadium before the team's friendly with Malaysia on Feb. 28. Former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cristy Kuntay, a daughter of former President Fidel V. Ramos and serving as commissioner for the international friendly, had visited the Azkals dugout as part of her pre-match inspection. In the complaint she subsequently filed with the AFC Disciplinary Committee, Ramos said that while she was in the dugout, two of the Azkals "ridiculed" her, "with one player disrespectfully asking for the size of her brassiere, which was followed by a roar of laughter." She also said that another Azkal was half-naked in her presence, in violation of international football decorum.

The Philippine Football Federation, the sport's national ruling body, has begun an investigation of the matter through its disciplinary committee, according to PFF general secretary Reily Tolda.

The Azkals have expressed regret through team manager Dan Palami. "I sincerely apologize to Commissioner Ramos for the distress this situation has caused her," Palami said in a statement, adding that "if it is proven that there was in fact malicious intent, I will make sure that proper sanctions are carried out." He also promised a thorough inquiry, saying that "like Commissioner Ramos, I also believe that sexual harassment should not be tolerated in any situation."

The controversy triggered disparate reactions from opposing quarters. Some called for immediate sanctions, noting that this was the second incident involving the Azkals and accusations of sexual harassment. They said that Ramos was merely carrying out her duties as a commissioner, that what the players had done would tarnish whatever treasure they would find in their upcoming games, and that no matter how popular or successful the Azkals had become, they were not above the law or the sanctions to be imposed by the PFF. Then there were those who even blamed Ramos for what had happened in what, they pointed out, was a men's locker room. They said believing Ramos' claims reflected a lack of patriotism because support for the national football team included backing it even against charges of sexual harassment.

But support for the team and a determined effort to find out what happened in the dugout—and, if necessary, impose the appropriate sanctions—are not mutually exclusive. One can continue to cheer on the Azkals in their sporting endeavors without turning a blind eye to the accusations of sexual harassment which, to this day and age, has no place in civilized society.

After all, representing the country is a high honor with stringent requirements, especially in the international setting. Those who carry our flag, in competition should be beyond reproach. Let the authorities carry out a proper investigation and let the red cards fall where they may. Only then will the Azkals be a true inspiration for their fans, who may then cheer for them without doubt or reservation.

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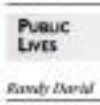
Endgame



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT'S BEEN two months since the historic impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato C. Corona began. Week 8 opened with the defense panel taking its turn to offer its own evidence. The public had waited for this with much anticipation. Days before, Mr. Corona hopped from one radio-TV program to another to announce that all questions about his properties will now be answered, including his supposedly dollar deposits. But what a great deep pretension! the week has been.

Government prosecutors were presented to testify that Mr. Corona was earning more than a simple luck or his monthly salary might indicate, and that the figures he declared in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) are consistent with the official "assumed value" of his real estate assets. But the one question that remained unanswered is why he omitted the much higher acquisition price at which he sold units with every bought. For such properties, "acquisition value" seems a more truthful measure of net worth. Indeed, there is no reason for the Chief Justice to fill out his SALN for the past nine years, the Chief Justice left it blank. It is no excuse to say that such information is anyway available in other public documents: the deeds of sale and income tax returns. If that were a valid reason, then the whole SALN would be rendered meaningless and useless.

I'm often asked how this impeachment process will end. My answer has been. I don't know. Politics is anything but predictable. As I have argued in past columns, impeachment is basically a political exercise that takes on the form of a judicial process. The purpose of the trial is not to determine whether or not to send an accused person to jail. Its sole purpose is to determine whether a top public official who occupies a position of trust is fit to remain in office. The individuals assigned to discharge this function are not from the judiciary. They are members of the representatives of the people—who, whether they like it or not, have to be attuned to public opinion.

The impeachment trial is no less political than the process that led to the filing of the impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives. The only difference is that the latter is dominated by politicians who are allies of the President, while the former is dominated by politicians who are allies of the Chief Justice. Both processes are political in character. Both are driven by the search for votes. The only difference is that in the House, the votes needed are only a majority of those present, while in the Senate, the votes needed are those of at least two-thirds of the entire membership.

The endgame for the Corona trial is no less uncertain. Although Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has vowed to see the process to its end, many unforeseen events can happen. An adverse procedural ruling, for example, can spark a similar uproar. It may good the Impeachment Court to intervene as a coequal branch, invoking its power of judicial review. The resulting impasse may pave the way for a compromise in order to avert a constitutional crisis. The one who wears the crown might then offer to make the supreme sacrifice of resigning, without admitting any of the charges. If that happens, would the process still continue? Most likely not.

But a scenario like this obviously does not entail by itself; it requires the shrinking back and forth of political agents who can adopt or administer the treasured canon of elite politics. They need them to do their work, for what better way is there than the season of spiritual contemplation that is coming up with the onset of Holy Week? For the actors in this trial, it is a good time not only for prayer but also for a deep-eyed assessment of where they stand and how much further they can press their case without incurring the public's ire and animosity.

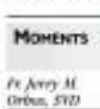
If there is any chance for anything like this, the best time for it to happen will have to be before Mrs. Corona, or Mr. Corona himself, takes the witness stand. Their appearance in the impeachment court will definitely take the process to an altogether different plane. It will set off in motion events that will be impossible to stop. Each of the 23 senator-judges will make use of the oath-taken. We do not know either how the Coronas will handle moments of in-your-face impudence. In a presidentially initiated like ours, I can only assume that the injury will be invulnerable, leaving little room for a negotiated exit.

But, if Chief Justice Corona is confident that he has nothing to be defensive about, there is total transparency will be his best ally. He should take the witness stand himself at the very first hour, and not allow his lawyers to waste the time of the senator-judges and the public. Only then will he be able to convince eight senators that he has not betrayed the public trust or done anything improper or illegal that can reasonably be regarded as impeachable—in order for him to keep his office. But that is not to say in any way that he is not entitled to the presumption, but from a position of superior public esteem. He has public sympathy when against all good sense, he accepted a midnight appointment as chief justice from a despised outgoing president who had been his abiding political patron. And he has public sympathy when he did not cheat any money or cheat me his taxes. He is the burden of showing that he is a man of integrity, good faith and competence—qualities that will make him truly worthy of being the country's chief magistrate.

This is the only conceivable endgame that can help him win.

public.lives@gmail.com

Toward the light



MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LAST WEEK I received this text message from a friend: Her mother-in-law had made me smile all at once. "Father Jerry, my mother just passed away. Please pray for the eternal repose of her soul."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 8, 14-31), we read the most important line in the New Testament, in the whole Bible, for that matter: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." And those not unless anyone! God wants everyone to be saved.

* * *

How consoling to know that God has opened the gates of heaven for us mortals. We have access to eternal life. We have a standing invitation to be with Him in eternity. However, our response to this standing invitation is not to just stand around, but to go toward the light. We are to make a choice, i.e., to step in the darkness, or to live in the light.

* * *

In this Lenten season, let us take a good look at the lives we are living. Are there dark areas in our lives that need healing? Are there relationships that need mending? Are there sinful habits that need ending? As we grow older, may we walk toward the light and leave behind the darkness. The more we go toward the light, the more our hearts will be light.

* * *

As a nation, are we a people who have finally seen the light? Have we come to the realization that guilt and corruption must really be eradicated and that we have to change our old ways? Shall we allow people to perpetuate or prolong the darkness that has overshadowed our government for the longest time?

* * *

A good question we all should ask ourselves is: Am I an agent of darkness or of light? As we journey on, are we spreading light and journeying toward the light, or are we the perpetrators of darkness and deeds of darkness?

* * *

And to me, the present day media focus not so much on the positive as on the negative news. It's about time the media focused less on the darkness around us, and more on the families that emit inspiring light in the darkest night. There are many bearers of the light. Let us follow them, and let them lead us in the light.

* * *

We pay tribute to the countless people who risk life and limb for truth and justice to prevail. Many of them have been persecuted, arrested charges, and even met with death. We salute those people who stand for something or someone greater than ourselves. They are agents of the light. Maliwanag tayo!

* * *

On the other hand, there are people who stand only for themselves and for their immediate family (or families), and done friends. What are they doing for our country and for our people? Where are they when the lives of the perils are the privileges at the expense of sacrificing people. We pray that they may see the light and share their natural, material, social, and political blessings, for the good of the many suffering people around us.

* * *

It's graduation time again. Congratulations to our graduates! Congratulations, too, to those who helped them graduate. Parents, teachers, take a bow. Let us acknowledge that much of what we are and what we have are a result of not only what we have made of ourselves but also of what others have done and sacrificed for us.

* * *

Speaking of graduation, let us not forget the final graduation in heaven. We hope all pass the course! The heartfelt thing is that there is already a "diploma" in us what guarantees will be mine. Look up Matthew 25, 31 and the following: "I was hungry, and you fed me; thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes; naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; in prison and you visited me... Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me."

* * *

Someone once said that judging people should be like converting two pennies, i.e., no matter how many mistakes, in the end the correct answers will still be the ones that will be counted. We pray, too, that in the end, God's mercy, more than the justice, will prevail. We trust, surrender, and believe we all will make it to God's heart there and then.

* * *

I remember Mother Teresa, who heartfelt said: "If we stop judging people, we will have more time to love them."

* * *

Let me end with a story about a man who grew a great deal toward his sickbed before begging on the sidewalk. Upon receiving the blood and a pat on his head, the boy entered: "Thank you, sir! Excuse me, sir... Are you Jesus?" The brethren here is that as we journey on, may people feel and see Jesus more from Amen.

* * *

A memorial with the Lord:
Lord, constantly lead me toward the light. Amen.

Gut issues

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio T. Carpio

SENATE PRESIDENT Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada recently contended that he almost fell asleep listening to the defense's first witness, Rep. Toby Tiangco, because what he expected to hear was the explanation for the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) of Chief Justice Renato C. Corona. He was referring to the alleged contradictory statements between Corona's SALNs and his newly known properties and bank deposits.

Last legal issue. Senator Vicente Sotto III, Prince Pangilinan, Pastilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara, in separate interviews, agreed that Tiangco's testimony was irrelevant. The charge was Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's: "They should go directly to the substance of Article 2: 'I swore that the (a) grave misconduct sought by Senator Estrada is the gut legal issue in Article 2.

On the gut legal issue, recall that in an oral argument on Jan. 27, the impeachment court held that "respondent, as a public official," has "the duty ... to completely, truthfully and faithfully disclose his assets, liabilities and net worth..." Consequently, a "less than full and faithful disclosure" may constitute misconduct.

The same decision also ruled that [t]o which purpose "Whenever any public officer or employee has acquired during his incumbency an amount of property which is manifestly out of proportion to his salary as such public officer or employee and to his other lawful income and to income from legitimately acquired property, said property shall be presumed prima facie to have been unlawfully acquired."

For its part, the Supreme Court has dismissed from the service several public officials found guilty of swearing or misdeclaring entries in their SALNs. I discussed these cases in my Feb. 26 column and will not repeat them here.

Fourthly, Senator Estrada, before he is sacked during the next two months, the prosecution probably never of the above laws and cases—primarily presented testimonial and documentary evidence showing that respondent acquired multimillion-peso assets and bank deposits that were either not declared or underdeclared in his SALNs, which, when taken together, appear to be manifestly out of proportion to his legitimate income. Significantly, the Senate has formally admitted these damaging pieces of evidence.

In its resolution on March 6 denying Corona's motion to suppress his bank deposits and dollar assets, the Senate emphatically linked his SALNs to the bank deposits, ruling: "The objective of the court was to compare the bank balances of the subject accounts with the cash and asset amounts declared by the Chief Justice in his SALNs from 2005 to 2010 in order to determine if the declarations of cash and investments in the SALNs were realistic, complete and accurate."

The clear message is that the explanation demanded by Senator Estrada should be limited, and if the explanation is unsatisfactory, conviction may be sanctioned pursuant to the above laws. To be fair, he was quick to add that the defense herald the senators' warnings. On the next days, it presented evidence tending to explain the discrepancies and inadequacies in the SALNs. I will not comment on the adequacy and cogency of the defense's evidence till its full conclusion.

Last public issue. Beyond the legalities, the gut policy issue—the respondent's fitness to remain in office—is actively debated outside the impeachment court. Aware of this underlying political reality, both the prosecution and the defense participate in media briefings, interviews, forums and letters to editors.

Corona himself went on a media blitz, asserting he was willing to testify and to explain the unexplained discrepancies in his SALNs. Specifically, he volunteered to open last week his dollar deposits and to explain the "lies" the resolution of last June said Mr. Mary Rose is impugning his character and throw as chief magistrate. He also vowed to respect the forum, humbly stating: "When I submitted myself to the forum from the start I trusted our senators, that they will do their duty. Whatever verdict they will have, I will accept."

Despite these solemn oaths, Corona's lawyers said—in response to Sen. Serafin Tolleson Jr.—that they have as yet formally assented to the Chief Justice's testify or to open his dollar deposits. Instead, they have repeatedly asked for the summary dismissal of the case, first at the start of the trial and the latest was in the presentation of their evidence. In fact, they also filed in the Supreme Court a petition on Feb. 8 and a supplemental petition on Feb. 15 to nullify the impeachment complaint and the entire trial proceedings.

While Corona tries to convince the public of his innocence in the media, he uses his public accounts, to submit to the forum and to accept whatever its decision, his lawyers seem to mean the opposite. In fact, they insist that the Senate proceedings are void from the beginning and should be junked. Prove our people and their direct ages, the senators, will have the dichotomy or conflict between the public trial and legal positions of the respondent and his lawyers continue to be seen.

Comment to: chat@antoniocarpio@hotmail.com

Lessons from Japan

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE OFFICIAL figures are disheartening in their stark reality: 15,800 dead, over 5,200 missing, and over 6,000 injured. Not to mention entire cities and towns reduced to rubble, and vital centers devastated by the tsunami, and the still-considerable damage considered part of the "no-entry zone," a 20-kilometer radius around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, debilitated by the tsunami.

But consider the reverse: In less than 2011, a total of 11,143 people (many of them seniors) were living in evacuation centers. By February this year, only 344 were still living in emergency shelters. In the same period of time, the number of people living in shelters in Iwate fell from 40,000 to about 20,934 to 69, and those staying with friends and relatives from 32,442 to 18,983, while 234,927 individuals were live in temporary facilities, public housing, or are in hospitals.

A big part of the recovery has been the swift progress of the government in allocating funds—and just how disaster response need to fail, but also for longer-term recovery.

In Kesik at the commemorative ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the Great Japan Earthquake, Associated Authorities Toshiyuki Ueda noted that "more than 40 percent of those to affected local governments have completed the formulation of a 'Reconstruction Plan,' which includes ambitious targets to become 'global models' for the introduction of renewable energy and development of hubs for advanced medicine."

"Through the realization of these plans, a is our aim to promote reconstruction not dressed as a tangible way," he said.

Ueda said that Japan plans to use the recovery plans that are now in a period for fostering and applying these lessons, but also for leading the way in creating new economic models and setups here to drive growth.

"The elephant in the room" not just during our dinner was the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster, its impact on the situation in Japan, is the story of the area surrounding the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which experienced a meltdown after a power failure following the tsunami. Every day, I was told, Japan has been able to get just a bit closer to the goal of bringing the reactors under control, and not just in Japan but even in neighboring countries.

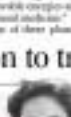
In Kesik, Ueda said fresh tests were being used to foster decontamination in the area around the destroyed plant. "I would like to continue to request that import restrictions and travel advisories remain in place in some cases to be reviewed and relaxed, in view of the latest situation which is based on scientific evidence," he said.

TAKAMURA, for his part, revealed that the Japanese government is "implementing a reexamination of Japan's nuclear power policy and a safety review of the existing nuclear power plants in the country.

Out of the 54 nuclear power plants in Japan, 32 are out of service now, undergoing a review by the nuclear regulatory agency, having established and equipped with redundant safety features, Takamura said. But a nuclear-free Japan may be difficult to conceive as the country has consistently relies on nuclear power for 30 percent of its energy needs, he said. Still, he admitted that "there is very strong anti-nuclear power sentiment in Japan today."

Our one week of discovery should prompt us to learn as much as we can from Japan's experience, and just to accept disaster as a "part of life." There is no point in wishing that we can end to expand as terrible and harmful as disaster is. Instead, with the help of the international community.

Libya's transition to transition



WORLD VIEW

Ronah Ruiz

LIBYA, LIBYA—Although Libyans are now celebrating the first anniversary of the revolution that toppled Moammar Gadhafi, they are increasingly frustrated with their new leaders. Libyans complain that the interim government is moving at the fast pace. The National Council (NTC), has not moved quickly enough to purge and prosecute major Gadhafi officials, or to rein in the militias that overthrew his regime.

Though the NTC is dedicated to implementing Libya's roadmap to democracy, the technical aspects and time necessary to do so before the elections tentatively scheduled for this summer. Facing such constraints, it must concentrate on a small number of important initiatives, before turning power over to its elected government.

Libya's transitional government faces a paradigm shift for NTC membership. One representative was invited to the council because he defected with his BBC fighter plane 21 years ago. Other members were previously political prisoners or exiled dissidents.

Discovered to the art of politics, the NTC frequently lacks the foresight needed to make critical decisions. During last year's eight-month revolution, it consolidated on overthrowing Gadhafi, gaining international recognition, and securing access to frozen Libyan assets. Those tasks left little room for attention to planning a post-Gadhafi Libya. Today, the NTC simply does not have the human resources to consolidate the transition.

Libya has since been blessed with a professional bureaucracy like that of neighboring Egypt. Gadhafi frequently used our power to manipulate rules and systems in an attempt to bypass the civil servant rules consistently thwarted his grandiose plans. And almost two decades of international sanctions prevented a generation of Libyans from learning the necessary technical skills by shutting the Western universities.

Even the oil sector—the lifeline of Libya's economy accounting for 95 percent of the country's export earnings—suffers from a shortage of professional engineers. Libya's ambitious diplomatic plan released by PM Libya, "Libyan pay for trained by employment with foreign [oil] companies often lack formal qualifications or applicable practical experience."

Instead of inserting new blood into senior government positions, the interim government found itself heavily shuffled cronies between ministries. Its last foreign intelligence chief, Abu Zaid Dorda, epitomizes this trend. During his 30-year political career, Dorda held ministerial cabinet portfolios, ranging from agriculture to economy to transportation. He later served as minister of Parliament, prime minister, and ambassador to the United States.

Today, the NTC is hard-pressed to find competent, politically unstained bureaucrats to fill its ranks. But that does not prevent most Libyans, who are clamoring for the dismissal of Gadhafi loyalists. One name on the list of many targets here is General Bashi Governor Badiq al-Kabir. Others, such as Libya's former ambassador to Britain, Omar Berbesh, were found dead, apparently murdered by a sudden clear spearheaded the campaigns over these Gadhafi.

Lack of skilled civil servants is also making it difficult for the NTC to push through the changes that Libyans are demanding. The council is not ready to try senior officials from the Gadhafi era, whom are now in the custody of militias, because the existing justice system was never tasked with prosecuting political cases. Such trials were held in revolutionary courts staffed by Gadhafi zealots and operating outside the formal judiciary. With no prospect for a fair trial in the foreseeable future, Gadhafi officials languish in jails.

Gen Khalifa Haftar, the former chief-of-staff with the interim Libyan who was still embedded about the revolution. But it is not only advantage of capable public servants that hamstrings the NTC—but as pressing are the time constraints under which it is operating. Since its inception last February, the NTC has committed to holding elections in June. Some doubt that would cede power to an elected government once the council was dissolved. With elections set to be held no later than June 20, the council has less than four months to prepare those to be elected into office.

In a nutshell, the NTC simply does not have the time necessary to implement the changes the Libyan people expect. It will not be able to disband the national militias that are destabilizing the country because it cannot trust their fighters. The vacuum of security that Libya will endure from its return to civilian life. It will fall on an elected government to carry out these reforms.

With the NTC confronting so many dilemmas with so little time, it must concentrate on a small number of key issues that can be resolved before it hands over power. The council needs to focus on establishing some degree of rule of law, and so on long militia abuses. It must respect and protect individual rights in order to demonstrate to Libyans that the type of arbitrary justice that characterized the Gadhafi era will not be tolerated.

The NTC is more and less able to solve all of Libya's problems. But, by chipping away at the overwhelm of challenges that the country faces, it can ease the burdens that will confront the elected government that succeeds it on the people's vote in June. (Ronah Ruiz is an

Ronah Ruiz is a research fellow at the New America Foundation.

Heed that sign!

IT'S SAID that 70 is the new 50, well and good. I have a 70-plus friend and when it comes to the morning, there's no debating what it means are to do first. Nine to the bathroom, back pain, knee pain and all. I keep my toilet bowl sparkling white and immaculately clean for when I see it, my brain gives the go-signal to open the flood gates. My first morning prayer is: "Thank you, Lord, I made it!"

I have made some major adjustments in my life. I do sounds only one night a week. On other days, I go to the nearest sleeping mall, enjoy a nice meal, eat a movie, have another meal and see another movie. The ways they gave names for movies because they're usually long. I enjoy them and I am grateful for the attention we are getting. It only I don't have a mood change when I have to go to the 10s. I find it "comfort room" but you, foreigners, I

Usually, the most comfortable one, which is meant for us young ones, is occupied. Unlike the elderly, we cannot announce our need. We don't have the "I really need some" look. I am not totally surprised when a unsightly young person comes out. I gently roll the attendant to please ask her users to avoid the convenient-sized sign on the door—an unmistakable image of a person in a wheelchair.

When we grow older, we get bolder. It's nature. The signs are there. Our wrinkles sprinkle and our teeth fall out; our incontinents become more and our need is easy to get us through the day. And so, signs were created and put in public areas and in restrooms. The words "comfort" and "rest" hold a meaning dear to our hearts but many of us (buyers here) are so understated it. When we elderly or handicapped person is needed, it's a first-for-all. Please help! Be sensitive who can't help it any longer. Someone should teach us. Parents that signs are meant to be read, understood—and obeyed.

Accidents person is a handicapped person. You don't need to lose an arm or a leg to be handicapped. Be called back pain, arthritis, knee pain, and pain shooting up at the chest to remember. Please, please, please,

TALK *of the* TOWN

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Libra Joan V. Sarmiento Jr.

IN THE THROES OF GOLD FEVER

Will mining kill children of Lombok?

By Augustine Dwiarsa

When they found out that two of us were from the Philippines they warmly exclaimed that they learned their trade from Filipino small-scale miners

DIGGINGS, covered with tarpaulins, dot a hillside in Sekotong, West Lombok, a gold-rush area in Indonesia

I WAS a presenter last month in an international conference and workshop on the socioeconomic, environmental and health impact of artisanal and small-scale mining in Indonesia.

The first of its kind in Indonesia, the conference was held at Surabaya University in Malang, Central Java. It gathered Indonesian academics and international presenters like me from Australia, the Philippines, Malaysia, New Zealand and China as well as representatives of the central and local governments, mining sector and international non-governmental organizations.

The 26 papers presented were an indicator of the current research and extension efforts in Indonesia and in several Southeast Asian nations in order to provide science-based options and solutions to problems arising from unregulated small-scale mining.

After the academic part of the conference was concluded, we traveled to the island of Lombok—one of the exotic gold-rush regions of Indonesia.

Next to Bali

It is the island next to Bali and is becoming popular among local and foreign tourists. It is touted as the next tropical "paradise" destination in Indonesia.

We flew into the recently opened Lombok International Airport, which we were welcomed with a light drizzle and a rainbow.

The image of the Irish saying came to mind—"At the end of the rainbow you will find a pot of gold." Little did we then know that the island is now in the throes of a gold fever. We had come to Lombok to contribute to a workshop on sustainable practices in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The activities were organized so that this was an outreach program to small-scale miners in order to provide alternatives and options to some very toxic practices, which small-scale miners employ.

Ironically, there are many efforts to instigate and hopefully curb the extensive use of mercury in amalgamation and concentrated gold.

Mineral exploration activities from 1986 to 2000 identified significant mineral deposits in several locations of Sekotong, West Lombok. Small-scale mining started in 2008 in two villages and then rapidly spread to 18 localities, according to district authorities.

Within a year it was estimated that there were 3,800 miners of whom only 275 were local residents. A majority were migrants from Sulawesi, Sasak, Sumbawa and Kalimantan provinces. They came to try their luck in this new gold-rush area. They were offering an area of 5,200 hectares.

Ban, protests

At the end of 2009 the local government of the West Lombok regency (equivalent of a county/province) officially banned and closed all locations of artisanal mining activities. The ban was part of the policy to develop the Sekotong region into a tourism area.

This led to large-scale protests with roadblocks and mass burning.

Despite the ban, artisanal mining is rampant. The most severe resistance from the Sekotong Energy and Mineral Resources office stopped. But there are now 8,000 illegal miners spread across 12,000 ha of protected forests and private land, inspired by holiday and tourism developers.

Patchwork of tarpaulins

On our visits to several small-scale mining locations, the coastal scenery was stunning. But the gold-rich hills were a patchwork of blue and orange tarpaulins, which cover the dig gings of small-scale miners.

In one of our stops at a seaside village, the miners were oblivious to our visit. We observed several miners entering very narrow hand-dug horizontal and vertical shafts. Breaking through these precarious shafts were hoses connected to compressors, which pumped out water seepage.

We saw them pushing ore buckets filled with rocks which were then poured into bonnies (sacks to be carried on the heads of women on the milling area. It is hand-size rock crusher was noisily slamming out pebble-sized stones, which were once again bagged and transferred to the battery of 18 glorified coal mills.

Mercury

Each mill is loaded with a sack full of ore and approximately a cup of mercury and topped up with water. The milling process takes four to five hours to crush, grind and release the gold. At the end of the process, the mercury-gold amalgam is drained and the mercury is burnt off with a blowtorch to leave the gold button. In the same village, was a gold shop, which bought the dust/nuggets of the miners.

The whole process—from digging the ore, milling and sand-panning, and purifying the precious metal—took place with hardly a semblance of safety.

Infants

We were told by some miners that accidents due to land and rock slides, and tunnel caves-ins are a regular occurrence, particularly during torrential rains. We would see mill workers pouring and shipping mercury and women crushing infants and preparing rice porridge next to the mercury-laden mills.

Moreover, the tailings were confined to areas in which chickens, ducks and goats were foraging. Cyanidation technology has become more evident with large cyanide tanks being used to extract gold, especially where tunnelry was in short supply. Arguably, it is a safer way of extracting gold without creating a major legacy of contaminated poisoning.

Dead shellfish

We were, however, quite disturbed by the use of cyanidation as it further pressures the mercury-laden tailings. This further compounds the toxicity of mercury as it makes it extremely unstable. We saw dead shellfish littering fishpond channels alongside tailings storage areas of the cyanide facilities.

The leachates from ad hoc tailings storage areas were seeping into surrounding irrigation channels, which were supplying water to rice paddies, kangkung and taro plots. All this seemed to be a public health time bomb waiting to explode.

In one village, there was a festive atmosphere and we were welcomed very sincerely. They asked who we were and what we did. So we explained that we were a team of scientists looking at ways to reduce the health risks of their artisanal mining activity.

Filipino miners

When they found out that two of us were from the Philippines they warmly exclaimed that they learned their trade from Filipino small-scale miners and that the best chemical for cyanide extraction came from the Philippines.

One of the young mothers came up and showed us her 3-month-old baby who had a slight cyanosis bruit. She asked if she was a symptom of mercury poisoning. Our initial observations suggested that she did not have the typical behavioral symptoms of mercury poisoning, but slightly raised alveolar appearance pointed to malnutrition.

It is important to know that in 2006 the West Lombok government requested that 21 percent of children under 5 were malnourished—one of the highest rates in the Indonesian archipelago.

In my conversation with one of the small-scale mining bosses, Hadi, who knew the health risks of mercury use, said the government had not done anything for small-scale miners. They could not feed their families living or having his land they could barely survive on the rupiah equivalent of $5 to $5 a day lost in small-scale mining they could earn up to $200 per day.

Union

He added that Allah had given them the right to take the precious metals to lift them out of their misery. He was not unaware of the health risks involved, he said, but in his village alone, there were 700 miners and they were starting to form a union to negotiate for their rights.

In this one village, all this illegal small-scale mining was part of a thriving multimillion-dollar industry and this all occurred in the last three years.

Hadi then posed a question: "Should we be able to help them by their mining in a way, which would not poison their children and their future?"

One could sense in his voice that they would not easily give up their newfound wealth. It was either starvation due to poverty or ill health (due to illegal small-scale mining).

Akin to Philippines

The scenario I observed in Lombok is no doubt akin to what is occurring in many parts of the Philippines.

The challenge to countries like ours and Indonesia is how to legitimize such forms of mining using ecologically sound and sustainable clean-mining practices, which can provide equal opportunities for people in these communities.

(Augustine Dwiarsa Ph.D., a "balikscientist," is a research fellow at the School of Chemistry of University of Melbourne in Australia.)

WOMEN and a toddler go about their activities beside mercury-laden mill mills.

Fast facts

WEST LOMBOK

Capital: Gerung
Area: 862.62 sq km
Population (2010): 631,734
Poverty incidence (2012):
Ethnic groups: Sasak, Balinese, Javanese
Religions: Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist
2010 GDP: Rp 1.11 trillion (US$130.5 million)
Per capita GDP: Rp8.37 million (US$713)
Growth rate: 10.55 percent
Contribution to GDP (2010):
+ Agriculture: 26.16 percent
+ Mining: 4.01 percent
+ Trade and tourism: 22.55 percent
GDP growth rate per sector as of 2010:
+ Agriculture: 5.5 percent
+ Mining: 10.11 percent
+ Trade and tourism: 14.62 percent

Source: BPS - Lombok Barat Regency

Curbing mercury use

WITH BANS, raising taxation illegal in many areas where they operate and miners tend to migrate to places where better gold resources are found. There is very little communication between the miners, society and government authorities. Authorities can put policies in place to reduce the impact of mercury on artisanal and small-scale mining by:

- Reducing mercury supply
- Implementing technological controls
- Reducing quantities of goods that result in mercury emissions
- Creating mercury-emissions taxes
- Using cap-and-trade approaches
- Controlling subsidies and restrictions on the sale and disposal of mercury
- Improving communication on fish consumption, occupational risks and product labeling.

However, the most sustainable solution is to educate small-scale miners to formalize and regulate their activities. This is the first step required to transform this squad of unprivileged miners into citizens, entailing a structure for them to form organized small-scale industries. In fact, this can be a long-term solution for the migration of people from rural areas to urban centers.

Using Global Mercury project

ARTIST'S FAVORITE This gnarled creation is a centerpiece in the forest of bonsai trees of Diomedio Vicente. "Trivia: caretaker of this property. I own it," Vicente says.

'Silent witness' for CJ: Cousin's bonsai forest

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is Corona's. If I were merely a caretaker, here would the bonsai have been like that?" said Vicente in Filipino, pointing to an aged bonsai with roots drawn firmly on the ground.

Vicente also said he's the one paying for the lot's real property tax.

Since acquiring the property almost 22 years ago, Vicente, once the country's top bonsai artist, has filled the once empty lot with thousands of miniature trees, his millionaire hiring 3,000 to be precise.

Hobby therapy

Now in his looking after 2,000 bonsai pots—demanding words that need constant watering, trimming, cutting and wiring, it may be a tough job for a senior citizen, but the enthusiast has no complaints.

"The hobby is very interesting. It's alive," Vicente said of crafting bonsai plants. "It's not like a painting that can be set aside when you finish it."

"Even if one tree has been admired by the best in competitions, you have to water it, wire it, trim it and use insecticide, fertilizer, fungicide. That's why it's very challenging," he said.

The hobby served as his cure-all and helped him recover from strokes he suffered in 2009 and 2010, said Vicente, a diabetic and hypertensive.

"I would walk little by little, miss the bonsai little by little," said Vicente.

"It's a different feeling when you are able to create something. You know that it won't always look beautiful as one hopes to be careful in pruning the leaves and branches," he said.

The pastime was not that costly, he said, except for a lot of expense on fertilizers and water.

Moving to the Madrilena property in 1990 gave Vicente the space he needed to pursue the hobby he had taken on years before.

Then a businessman turning out luxury machinery in Quezon City, Vicente was first drawn to cultivating bonsai some 30 years ago, when a friend introduced him to the art.

"I started with a few then I got more and more," Vicente said.

And as he was shuttling down his business in Quezon City, Vicente said he learned through an agent about the Madrilena Heights lot and got interested in buying. He said he did not know the property belonged to his second cousin's wife, Cynthia Corona, and her sister Rhoda Roco.

"I frequented this place ... then I learned through a broker that this was for sale," said Vicente.

He purchased the property for P1.416 million and constructed a house from scratch, he said.

"There was nothing here except for those big mango tree there," said Vicente, pointing to the towering tree on one side of the lot.

"Then I constructed a house. I rented a house on the other block while this was being constructed. It took me four months before I moved in and it was still unfinished," he said.

The only hitch was, even if he got the deed of sale, he still has not transferred the property to his name. Making that transfer today, 22 years after buying the property, would cost him P500,000 in penalties, Vicente said. He currently pays P36,000 in real property tax every year and he has all the building permits.

"IT'S ALIVE," says Diomedio Vicente of his hobby. "You have to water it, wire it, trim it and use insecticide, fertilizer ... That's why challenging."

Vicente graciously welcomed the inquirer into his Madrilena home and garden on Friday while chatting about his and fielding questions that appeared on the paper's front page for day before.

Readers had complained that the photos, which showed Vicente's different bonsai experiments on the entrance mural, were offensive and insensitive to the subject, a stroke survivor. The Inquirer apologized, to which Vicente replied: "Apology accepted. Wala naman sa akin yun (That's nothing)."

Slice of a quiet park

The house on Sen. Orbidini Street in Madrilena Heights may look plain from the outside at first glance: A red gate splitting a high wall, with some strands of vines cascading toward the street.

But once the gate opens, a lush garden welcomes the guest, almost like a slice of a quiet park.

The winding stone adobe pathway is flanked on both sides by rows upon rows of bonsai pots, like green sculptures of different shapes and sizes. Most are varieties of the banyan tree while others are miniature coconuttrees, balmoring, balete and Vicente's prize-winning creation, a caffee bonsai.

Post-hearing graces, mornings and nights I own, find his property along with other ornamental plants. On one side, he keeps a few Japanese bonsai-drinking, which he tucks his attention to during breaks from his bonsai.

In the middle of the property is his airy red-brick home, which he now shares with former, his "first and only wife" of 46 years. Their only daughter, 44-year-old Josefina Victorio, has long been away from home, working as conservatory chef in different parts of the Middle East.

"O, ganyan ba ang mayaman (Are the rich like that)?" Vicente joked.

It was once some but none of the lights were on. There was no television set in the living room, just simple old furniture, some formal picture books and family photos.

There was an old split-type air conditioner, but Vicente was quick to the draw and said in Filipino: "You know why I never turn that on? Because it's hot. It's too hot for me to pay for the power bill."

In the open garage, there was an old giant box-type freeze and an early model of the Nissan Sedan. He rarely drives since he suffered a stroke, Vicente said, but would sometimes do runs around the block.

The house is never completely quiet, though. Shower's Pomeranian Vino and bulldog Pag would at times have barking bouts, while his pair of turbo-bore finch and Bikay sound off from their cage.

He devoted the upper floor of his house solely for his plants, which has remained unroofed so they would always catch the rain.

"A month before I enter competitions, I would be up till 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. trimming my bonsai. I just need music and lights and I do my job," said Vicente.

2-time champ

Among his favorite plaques are a special citation from a bonsai competition in Japan in 1999 and a collection of seven trophies from a single competition in the Philippines in 1997.

"One of the top 20 bonsai, seven years mine," he said proudly.

The two-time Philippine bonsai champ had competed in an ornamental landscape exhibit in 2009, when he was awarded place. He is now pleased with just tending to his collection at home with the assurance of a helper.

Now living a senior's life, Vicente and his wife earn their keep from their 13-door apartment in Quezon City and receive regular remittances from their daughter.

Asked if he would sell some of his creations, Vicente said with a naughty grin: "If the price is right."

POTTED DELIGHTS Those are just among the 3,000 bonsai trees that thrive on the 1,450-square-meter Madrilena property which the preservationist alleges is actually owned by the Coronas.

Barako zaps Meralco

By Mussing R. Castillo

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Wynne Archinuela dropped three treys in a crucial six-kick in the fourth period last night as Barako Bull completed a come-from-behind 89-82 decision of Meralco that sent the 8-loops from further PBA Commissioner's Cup contention.

Archinuela's last triple came in the final 3:40 mark which allowed the Energy to an 80-72 lead at the Mindanao Civic Center and eventually to a level 4-4 card that kept them reasonably in the hunt for a playoff berth.

The loss was the first in three games for the 8-Slops and fifth in eight games overall which normally put an end to their gallant stand in the import-tainted event as they joined idle Air21 at 5-6 to tilting an early break with still a game left in their schedule.

It was a stirring comeback completed by the Energy, who trailed by 11 at the half before coming into the third period with renewed zest after getting a measure of support including from coach Jamel Barrelt in the flagrant.

"They were as relaxed (in the first half)," Barrelt said. "Their experience showed in the second half and they played more aggressively. We put big nights and everyone contributed. I give all credit to the guys, they deserve this win."

Meanwhile, Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes is not hiding the fact that he drools over Jackson Vroman.

"Vroman is perhaps the most skilled import around," Reyes said on the eve of his Tropang Texters' match with Barangay Ginebra, when the two squads evening contending results tussle it out today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup elimination.

"He makes Dorsey, the deepest man in the NBA, so much better," Reyes continued as link to Tony Dorsey, a one-time import-bomb the Sin 1 spot in the playoffs in their 6:30 p.m. clash with the Gin Kings at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Ginebra may have gotten deeper with the acquisition of Vroman several weeks back, but that has not translated into results that the Kings obviously want.

With a 3-3 record, the Kings are reeling from two straight setbacks, going 1-2 even with the help of the supposedly talented Vroman.

The scores:

BRGY. GINEBRA (82)—Slaton 18, Aban 7, Aromin 0, Ingles 12, Espinas 0, Abando 7, Tubid 2, Dennis 0, Pinto 2, Jaymo 2, Lassiter 7

MERALCO (89)—Barroca 20, Ahmad 0, Mariappan 0, Cortez 0, Yeo 0, Devezeaux 0, Fajardo 0, Fajardo 0, Santos 2, Hontiveros 7

Quarters: 17-31, 32-52, 59-62, 89-82

DONNELL Harvey (left) of Talk 'N Text and teammate Ranidel De Ocampo (right) apply a double team on Air21's Melbert Dionisio. The two are expected to help seal order on contending Ginebra's Jackson/Vroman today.

NEWS

Terrorist still alive? AFP wants proof of life

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were killed in the air strike.

'Badly wounded'

Citing Malaysian intelligence, the official said Marwan was "badly, badly wounded" and is hiding in the island of Jolo but declined to give more details.

Burgos, however, said reports on the ground indicated that Marwan had really died during last month's raid in Dayan Kalaan in Barangay Lanao Dacula in Patang, Sulu, along with two other most wanted terrorists personalities, Abu Sayyaf commander Umbra Jacdacl or "Dan Laut," and Jemaah Islamiyah leader Muhammad Ali or "Mayeshyah."

"Although the AFP hasn't released a proof of the killing as it is still awaiting the results of the DNA tests taken on the body parts left at the scene, intelligence reports from the field show that he was one of the fatalities as a result of that bombing," Burgos said.

Intensified security operations

He said he did not know the details of the bounty offered by the United States for Marwan's head but "definitely they would require conclusive DNA proof before any reward is given."

Asked if the Malaysian official's claims prompted the AFP to conduct more search and pursuit operations in Sulu, Burgos replied: "With or without the existence of the claim, the AFP will continue with its intensified security operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group and Jemaah group."

"The safety and security of our citizens will always be of paramount concern and priority to every military operation," he added.

Burned from grave site

The military said the 3 a.m. air strikes by two OV-10 bronco in Datung town in Sulu last month drew 15 terrorists, including the three wanted personalities.

Officials said they were found in a thickly vegetated area under the cover of coconut trees and armored vans. They were believed to be sleeping when the 227-kilogram bombs were dropped.

Senior Supt. Antonio Freyre, police chief for Sulu, earlier said they had learned the identities of the three terror suspects had been buried but authorities were prevented by local religious leaders from excavating the bodies.

Freyre said one of the teams had said the group site contained two bodies.

"We were hoping to get specimens (for DNA testing), but we also didn't want to insist because it might ignite tension," Freyre explained.

Sulu Barangay Councilor councilor Genesis Datungin also said locals had confirmed to him the death of Marwan when a bar was hit by bombs last month.

Classified details

"As per verification from more than a couple of sources, including relatives of Jumdail, there were 28 persons within the perimeter of the lot during the air strike, seven were killed, eight were wounded and the rest managed to flee unscathed," Datungin said.

Lt. Col. Bernadette Cabangbang, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said despite were behind reports that Marwan is alive.

"There are some groups that would create noises so that we will react by divulging the classified details surrounding the links an order. We would not have announced to media if we had doubts. We do not want to please numbers/news. What is important is to is that those who have been affected by these terrorists, especially the people of Sulu, believe and are happy that they are dead," he said.

On 30th trial day, bean counters reign

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event, and held the issue to have been closed after the impeachment court ruled on Day 1 to accept the articles of impeachment. The bean-counters (hence the defense's strategy to reopen the argument that, in their haste, the House of Representatives violated Corona's right to due process. So why did the defense even bother? The only explanation is political, to send the message that behind all the "legal gobbledygook" is nothing but brazen political power play.

The Senate also was expected to release on the Corona/ peso/ dark accounts, frustrating the defense's last chicks of evidence to suppress evidence. However, the Senate announced one of its members will step down, thus paving the way for challenge to the possession the Senate will not allow any evidence on ill-gotten wealth because that wasn't charged in the articles of impeachment. The prosecution is limited to proving only the SALN discrepancies, which is what all those rather ominous-clear were sought to do.

The defense now presented the Supreme Court's chief disbursement officer, who testified that Corona received over P25 million in salaries and benefits since 2002. She disputed the claim of Internal Revenue chief Kim Henares who said that the high-salaried treasurer is "alpha list" in withheld taxes from 2003 to 2008, and actually produced those lists. The lists that the prosecution could answer sure to ask whether the hefty allowances had actually been used for their designated purposes. But there was no way to confirm this since it was standard practice that no liquidation (submission of supporting receipts) was needed for these allowances.

Senators Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV and Allan Peter Cayetano rightly asked how her testimony can be relevant, since the defense seemed to be opposing the charge on ill-gotten wealth which was already disallowed by the Senate. The defense replied that Corona's numbers would at least prove the net income of P3 pesos 500,00.

In addition, two witnesses from the house and the Senate electoral tribunals testified that the CJ earned an additional P5 million. Under the Constitution, each chamber of Congress has an electoral tribunal to decide all election contests involving members of Congress. If a member is not the subject of a contest, he sits in the tribunal as an ex-officio member. The witnesses testified that Corona was entitled to receive the honorarium of P5 million per year.

Also in addition, two witnesses from the Senate and the Senate electoral tribunals testified that the CJ earned an additional P5 million. Under the Constitution, each chamber of Congress has an electoral tribunal to decide all election contests involving members of Congress. If a member is not the subject of a contest, he sits in the tribunal as an ex-officio member. The witnesses testified that Corona was entitled to receive the honorarium of P5 million per year.

The defense also presented a Corona cardinal sworn Marilou Pangcoga from his SALN. The 79-year old Demetrio Varona, a second cousin of Cristina Corona, the Chief Justice's wife, testified that he bought three properties from Cristina Corona way back in July 1998, but simply hasn't completed the transfer of title because he ran out of funds. The prosecution first line of attack was incredulity—sure, really after 13 years? The next was to impugn the notarization of the document, apparently signed by a Quezon City notary for a transaction done in Makati. The final was to show real estate tax payments until recently, that showed both his name and that of Mrs. Corona.

The defense next explained why Corona omitted the P6.1 million McKinley Hill condominium from his SALN. The Taguig City assessor said that it had already been transferred to Corona's daughter, Charisse Waminiano, the assessor testified that the Chief Justice had accurately declared the assessed value of his P1.4 million condominium at Northfairs Bridge and his P3.4 million unit at the Bellagio Towers.

Similarly, the Quezon City assessor explained that another Corona property, in the La Vista subdivision, has likewise been transferred to another daughter, Ma. Cielo. The Quezon City assessor further explained that Corona's SALN accurately stated the fair market value of P921,000 and assessed value of P276,000 of Corona's Burgundy Plaza unit along Katipunan. Finally, he presented tax declarations for Corona's properties in Antonio Subdivision and Ayala Heights.

Bogus transfers?

In the future, the prosecution is expected to rebut Corona's evidence by showing that all the purported transfers of the properties were bogus, either by showing that the Coronas (Cristina) couldn't have afforded to buy those properties or that they performed acts of ownership even after the enrolment sale.

The prosecution also has to contend the question of how Chief Corona have declared the fair market value of his properties? Or was it enough that he declared the acquisition cost? If the SALN is meant to detect ill-gotten wealth, it is the acquisition cost that is relevant. The law says that property is presumed to be "ill-gotten" if it is manifestly out of proportion to a person's legal income for that purpose, we ask: How much did he get it for? Could he have afforded it on his salary? If property values have escalated since, that wouldn't make it ill-gotten.

However, if the SALN uses for legal purposes, e.g. to monitor how much of the official's wealth comes from compensation and how much from other wealth, then the current fair market value becomes relevant.

Down to SALNs

The impeachment trial began at great debate about how the Supreme Court shamelessly flouted its mandate to run through a midnight appointment and to protect former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the long arm of the law. It is pedantic that as early as 2006, the day we are down to the issue of whether the SALNs are complete and correct.

But perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. If the starting point is that impeachment is a political mechanism to make the Supreme Court accountable (the unwritten proper, should we be surprised at all that it is the popular base (e.g. purchased wealth) that should be more prominent than the justice issues (e.g. separation of powers)? We thought we could be free Quinones then now realized we were at best Sancho Panzas.

Japan keen to set up shop here; PH 'least problematic'

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three administrations ago in 1995.

The National Statistics Coordination Board reported that Japan was the top source of foreign capital pledges with its 30.2 percent share, ahead of the Unit. of them (17.5 percent) and the Netherlands (11.1 percent).

Mr. Aquino noted that Japanese companies operating in the Philippines were among the most enthusiastic endorsers of the country.

"For example, a manufacturer of (automotive) wire harnesses has reduced elite manufacturers (from Japan) to move their plants here because of the reason. I think that is very encouraging, because only the small industries but big ones like steel manufacturing," said the President who hinted that a major steel maker from Japan was keen to set up shop here.

He said the Philippines was already the fourth-largest shipbuilder in the world after China, South Korea and Japan, and the establishment of a steel plant in the country could push the Philippines higher in the rankings in this hotly sector.

The President said his administration's efforts to sell the Philippines as an ideal foreign investments site had paid off with most Japanese businessmen ranking the country as having the most "hospitable" environment for business expansion.

He cited a recent survey by Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) among Japanese-affiliated businesses in the Asia-and Oceania regions.

"Their questions were on the opposite side, like what were the problems they (businessmen) encountered in securing labor, recruiting supervisory personnel, land acquisition or rental, and in all of the business concerns, the Philippines was practically rated as having the least problems for businessmen. They were shocked to hear that in fact it is positive for us," said Mr. Aquino.

The Jetro survey, which was conducted from August to September 2012, counted 730 Japanese manufacturing and services firms with operations in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Burma (also known as Myanmar), India, Thailand, Malaysia and China.

PH least problematic

In the survey, the Philippines had the least problems when it comes to increasing financial costs (China and Vietnam were the worst), rising prices or shortage of land or office (India and Vietnam were the worst), and skyrocketing payroll costs (Thailand and Vietnam were the worst).

The Philippines was rated as having the least problems in terms of overseeing general staff (Vietnam and Malaysia were the worst), recruiting executives (Burma and Vietnam were the worst), low rate of employment retention (Vietnam and Malaysia were the worst), problems in workers compensary (Burma and Vietnam were the worst), and difficulty in quality control (Thailand and Vietnam were the worst).

In terms of labor costs, the Philippines had the least problems in salary base cuts (Vietnam and India were the worst) although it ranked slightly higher in terms of salaries for managers and engineers.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said the administration's efforts of Japan's triple dimmers in 2011 was not the only reason driving Japanese investors to the Philippines.

"It's our improved competitiveness as well in terms of labor cost and quality of work force. A lot of Japanese investors are coming in, including the big auto mafia as Honda and Canon, and there are a lot who are seriously looking right now," said Domingo in a text message.

Domingo was one of the Cabinet members who was in Tokyo just a month before the disaster struck in Japan on March 11, 2011. The Philippine officials were in Japan for an investor roadshow aimed at highlighting the reforms being done under the Aquino administration such as a consultant in rail transportation, rail taps and clamp down on corruption.

'VIP'

Domingo said the recent visit of the finchroom (the Japan Business Federation), considered the most influential of Japan's major economic organizations, was proof of the rising level of interest in the Philippines.

"Its delegation consisted of the chairs and CEOs of the largest Japanese conglomerates, there were about 20 of them. That level of participation has not happened in a long time," he said.

Siamon del Rosario Jr., chair of the Makati Business Club, congratulated the President for saying that the Philippines was "back on the radar screen of Japanese investors."

"Just last Thursday, at a farewell lunch for the Mitsubishi country head, Nobuyo Ishida, who is also a leader of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, [he] told us that the personal focus of Japanese investors is VIP—for Viet. nam, Indonesia, and the Philippines," Del Rosario said in a text message.

"This is our best shot at Japanese investments in any manufacturing sector since we missed out in 1989 because of the typhoon/coup d'etat/ economic-crisis combo that year. But we need to get our act together and persuade the key investment options, with Vietnam and Burma aggressively pursuing Japanese investment as well," Del Rosario said.

Francisco Ong, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the resurgence in Japanese investments was part of the growing trend of companies exiting from China, which had racked out most of the manufacturing jobs in the Philippines more than a decade ago with the globalization of trade and investments.

With labor costs showing up in China, foreign investors are looking at returning to the other countries that they abandoned like the Philippines, said Ong.

"We're timed by the surge in Japanese investments but we should not lose sight of getting other foreign investors like the Chinese who also went to escape China's escalating labor costs," he said in telephone interview.

Not keen on tax perks

Unlike previous administrations, Mr. Aquino said he was not keen on talking about making tax perks the main tool in attracting Japanese and other foreign investors into the country as he had promised to end the government's deficit spending.

"We're doing it differently now and we are attracting them to come here on the basis of interest: business reason like quality labor and low graft and not because we give the highest incentives, "he said.

Across the NATION

Bulacan tire burning plant raided

SERENITY
An islet named Crocodile sits in the middle of the 600-hectare Sampaloc Lake in San Francisco, Cam Sur. The area is a highly diverse ecological front rich in mangroves and different species of fish.

By Carmela Reyes-Estrope
Inquirer Central Luzon

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—Tension gripped a densely populated community here on Friday when Bulacan Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, accompanied by a team of police and environment officials, raided a tire recycling plant that had defied a government order to stop operations following complaints on health hazards.

The police, at the request of Alvarado, entered the compound of Bio-Eco Solution Technology Inc. in Barangay Tabang but were refused access by the plant caretaker, identified as John Ang, a Chinese, and its security personnel.

Bio-Eco Solution scarcely seven car tires into lumber oil in its enclosed facility. But it operates in a populated community in neighbor, among them the Tabang Education Skills Development Authority building and the Bongabon Technology facility, had complained about foul smell coming from the plant.

Acting on the complaints, Alvarado ordered the plant to cease operations on March 6. He also found that the plant had been operating without an environmental compliance certificate.

Martin Santos, village chair of Barangay Tabang, said the plant continued to emit smoke in spite of the governor's directive.

Alvarado said he proceeded to the plant to confirm the order, but the plant's security guards refused to open the doors for us. The governor was accompanied by Lucinelyn Claudio, Central Luzon director of the Environmental Management Bureau.

Herding Alvarado's entourage, a police team, led by Supt. Pete Maravilla, head of the Bulacan provincial public safety office, used a ladder to scale the compound and opened the gate for the officials.

Ang said he did not mean to stop Alvarado and the police but had wanted to secure his company lawyers' counsel before allowing the officials into the plant.

Lawyer Eusebio du Bebot, Bulacan provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the provincial government planned to file criminal charges against Ang and the firm for defying the order.

Vice Gov. Daniel Fernando said his house is a kilometer away from the Bio-Eco Solution compound so he is aware of the villagers' complaint.

He said the matter of declaring the Firm persona non grata (unwelcome) in Bulacan would be discussed in the next month's session of the provincial board, which he chairs.

Before issuing the March 6 order, the government conducted several technical meetings with Ang to discuss remedies, Claudio said.

According to De Bebot, Bio-Eco Solution had violated Section 5 of Presidential Decree No. 1586 (which imposes the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System), the Clean Air Act of 1999, the Clean Water Act of 2004 and other laws for its failure to get environmental clearance.

John Hay firm says House role in feud welcome

BAGUIO CITY—The House committee on banes intervention has succeeded in the debt feud between the developer and administrator of Camp John Hay—a move that the developer said it welcomed.

The committee tasked Baguio City Rep. Bernardo Vergara and Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan with conducting a fact-finding mission to determine the financial conditions of the Camp John Hay tourism estate project after an inquiry on Wednesday.

Vergara said he and a technical working group in addition a legal battle dating back to 2003 over an unfilled unpaid rent by Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), the private consortium developing the former US military rest and recreation facility.

At the hearing on Wednesday, Alfredo Ongpin III, CJHDevco chief operating officer, was quoted by a CJHDevco statement as saying he welcomed the House move.

"We have been backwards," said Ongpin in the CJHDevco statement. "We have acted in good faith because we believe in the project and we want to make it work," he said.

"We would not come this far and hang on this long if we didn't believe in the project," the statement quoted Ongpin as saying. "We need to find a win-win solution which will primarily benefit the city of Baguio," he said.

Vergara said he wanted to ensure the Camp John Hay project by mediating a reconvening between CJHDevco and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which recently sued CJHDevco at the Department of Justice for estafa and reporting.

CJHDevco has secured a status quo order from a Baguio court to prevent a BCDA attempt to repossess the former American rest and recreation area.

The scandals became public when their officials engaged in a media war, after CJHDevco rescinded in December 2011 its restructured lease contract over government's commercial branches. The developer pursued arbitration to collect P5.4 billion in damage claims from the BCDA.

Ongpin and the BCDA and CJHDevco traveled to withdraw all pending suits. Starting fresh negotiations, he said, would be necessary if they want their businesses to prosper. New negotiations will also enable Baguio to collect its 25-percent share from the developer's annual rent, he said.

Ongpin said the House hearing afforded the firm the opportunity to explain the feud.

"We are where we are because of where BCDA put us," he told the Inquirer by telephone.

CJHDevco, in its press statements, said government's failure to honor all of the firm's development permits had delayed the infrastructure projects that is needed to generate income to pay its rent.

Lawyer Arnel Casanova, BCDA president, disputed this, saying the government had fulfilled its obligations.

Casanova welcomed the inquiry. He said Congress indicated it would pursue an independent audit of John Hay operations.

Intervening to the negotiating table requires full transparency and good faith, he said.

Hector Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

In Digos, 'padrinos' of 'Last Two' reign

DIGOS CITY—In open defiance of a city council order, gambling lords continue to have a heyday here, reopening betting outlets that has been shut down, in a gesture of boldness that the city mayor is not immune to intimidation of powerful individuals protecting gambling operations.

Mayor Joseph Peñas said the betting outlets had reopened less than a month after gambling lords put on a show of shutting them down to heed a council resolution ordering police to crack down on illegal gambling.

The council resolution was prompted by the proliferation of outlets collecting bets for the illegal numbers game Last Two, so called because its results are based on the last two digits of winning numbers for the government-run Lotto.

Last Two outlets, popularly known as bet stations here, have been put up near churches and offices of the police, which appear to be helpless in defending the gambling rackets.

Councilor Serafin Serapion Jr., who authored the resolution against gambling, said the open defiance by gambling lords of the council resolution smacked of arrogance that could only mean they were enjoying protection from people with influence.

The resolution tied ordered police to dismantle all Last Two betting outlets and arrest the people operating them. The outlets have reopened and no arrests have been made.

Mayor Peñas said he believed gambling lords were enjoying the protection of so-called padrinos, or highly influential persons.

The mayor, however, said he couldn't do anything else but let police do their job. But police are in a state of denial over the existence of the gambling syndicates.

Supt. Solomon de Castilla, city police chief, said he was not aware there that the Broncos had reopened.

De Castilla also warned sharply when asked whether bullets made in police were allowing financiers to operate again.

"We did not receive anything," De Castilla said.

Ma'Ma Cruz, Davao del Sur police said these people—a few collector and one betcutter—were arrested in recent antigambling operations. Orlando B. Rivera, Inquirer Mindanao

Poll set for seat vacated by Iggy

BAGUIO CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will hold a special election on June 2 for the House seat vacated by the late Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

The Comelec en banc set the date of the election after receiving a copy of House Resolution No. 2171, calling for a special election to fill up the seat vacated by Arroyo who died in London on Jan. 28.

The resolution was transmitted to the Comelec on Tuesday.

The special election would cost at least P30 million, said Regina Ong-Lintreal, provincial elections supervisor Armie Suson.

He said the Comelec head office had asked him to submit data on the number of voters and precincts in the 6th district of Negros Occidental in preparation for the special election. Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

INQUIRER Mindanao

Amid power woes, business flickers

By Inquirer Mindanao

WIDOW Siti Amina Hanun sells cupcakes, ice candies and chicken "inchico" to support her six children. "I used to use my savings wisely, so I invested in freezers, oven and other cooking utensils. I have my children as helpers in our business," she says.

But the frequent sweltering summer weather has cast serious concern that was dimming her hopes. "Blackouts keep me business-threat."

Here, Hanun is having a hard time delivering 3,000 ice candies, 500 cupcakes and 300 packs of chicken wings to 10 schools in Zamboanga City.

"We always have blackouts and I don't want my children to stop late at night to help me," she said.

William Lim, the president of Mega Fishing Corp., has the same lament. In short, Rafe Perdo Sobrun, a mall manager and chair of the Zamboanga City Chamber of Commerce.

"We have to operate normal processing and running of utilities, but the use of generators requires additional fuel. Definitely, it also affects the pricing of our items," Lim said.

Power outages mean "additional cost to fire up the generators," Sobrun stressed. "Productivity of labor is hampered, not to mention the increase amount. All these translate to non-quantifiable losses to the business sector."

All over Mindanao, the complaint is multiplied. And electric cooperatives are being blamed for the problem.

But Jose Custer, the officer in charge of the Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative (Zamcelco), said the city was only one of those suffering from power shortage.

Zamcelco operates with an 80-megawatt consumption, but Custer said "the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) reduced our allocation to about 68 MW and that means two to three hours of blackout a day."

The NGCP is a private corporation that operates and maintains the country's transmission network and is responsible for delivering electricity to distribution utilities and electric cooperatives.

CANDLES are now the most common source of light in many households in Zamboanga City as night became go longer would not consumers suffering from frequent brownouts at least P14 per liter of kerosene. JOEY ALMAZ

Growing consumption

Custer said the NGCP had to reduce the power load because "our main source, the hydro plants in Lanao, could no longer provide (to address) the growing consumption." The hydroelectric plants produce a steady supply of 700 MW for Mindanao, but demand has risen to 1,800 MW.

The only alternative, Custer said, was to tap independent power sources, such as Therma Marine Inc. (TMI), to get at least 100 MW.

It has a price tag, though. "Consumers have to accept the P1 increase," Custer said. Zamcelco charges P5.36 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and drawing more power from TMI would increase the rate to P7.

He said the industrial sector in the city was opposed to getting power from TMI.

Gerejo Ledesma, the president of the Industrial Group of Zamboanga, however, said he was never against drawing power from independent power producers.

"What we have been asking for is the cost impact to businesses would be the cost per kWh. The P2-centavo kWh fee-ding price for TMI using 10 MW is too much. Besides, Zamcelco failed to consult the consumers," Ledesma said.

Frustration

In Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte, government officials have also expressed frustration over the frequent power outages.

"It's terrible, frustrating," Davao del Norte Gov. Arturo Uy said.

In the Caraga region, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur have been experiencing daily power interruptions that last 10 minutes to five hours.

South Cotabato Gov. Lala Montilla-Mendoza said consumers and also complained about "frayed" home appliances because of the frequent power interruptions.

Again, the pressure is on the electric cooperatives. Uy urged the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative (Davelco) to look for ways to improve its power supply through alternative sources, other than presently being supplied by the NGCP.

"Davelco has to improve its power supply by all means," he said.

Retailer's end

And Dumeo gave the same assurance this Davao Oriental town which could sometimes last up to several hours were the result of load curtailment by NGCP.

"It's really frustrating but what can we do? Dumeo is only a retailer and we can only buy as much as our stakeholders can provide," said Jesus Bon, the Dumeo board president.

Dumeo serves over 120,000 metered consumers. It needs 65 MW but due to low production, the NGCP can only provide 40 MW at a shortfall of 20 MW.

"We have to shut the power down every time the NGCP implements load curtailment," said Bon.

Tagum City Mayor Rey Uy urged President Aquino to look into the power problems.

False crisis?

Since last week, Lourdes Sarmiento, chair of the Mindanao Development Authority (Minda), has been making the rounds calling for an investigation into what she called a "false power crisis."

Sarmiento had requested for a congressional inquiry through the House committee on energy and Rizalo Agusan committee on Mindanao affairs, to get to the bottom of the situation.

She said both the Agus 2 and Pulangi hydroelectric plants, which have a combined 60 MW or more, have untapped capacity that could sustain the power demand. Agus has an installed capacity of 180 MW but only 90 MW are being transmitted to the Mindanao grid. On the other hand, Pulangi has an installed capacity of 255 MW but only 180-200 MW are being transmitted.

"Why isn't it being used when a lot of Mindanaoans are suffering from the daily brownouts?" Sarmiento asked. She said Pulangi's installed capacity could still be increased if dredging is done for full operation.

In summary, the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives reported that Rio Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is withholding the appropriation for the maintenance of Agus and Pulangi because the plants are due for a rate as provided for by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Privatization

Rodolfo Ocat, the general manager of the South Cotabato Electric Cooperative II (Socoteco II), said the privatization of the power industry under the Epira is one of the issues in the power industry.

Ocat claimed the privatization of the National Power Corp.'s (Napocor) assets had exacerbated the power supply problems, particularly in Mindanao.

"One of the culprits here is the Epira. Aside from reducing the power supply, it leads to the increase of the power rate," Ocat added.

Socoteco II has been negotiating a two-hour daily power outage in South Cotabato due to deficiency in the power supply.

Ocat warned that six to 12 hours continual brownouts were expected next month when Napocor would suffer a 220-MW system deficiency due to routine annual maintenance in one of its plants. "This would mean a 43-megawatt load curtailment for Socoteco II," he said.

"We could not find any power supplier that would agree to a one-month contract. Our power contract agreement with Therma Marine Inc. has a duration of at least one year," Ocat said.

Should there be any available power supply he said, the cost would be so high. Currently, that it would last for only a month. "So instead of paying a very high rate, maybe we must lose the six to 12 hours continual brownout daily," Ocat said.

Mendiola wished the NGCP to explain, saying "they cannot invoke a (power shortage) scenario for us to give in to privatization of the Agus and Pulangi."

NGCP however, is mainly a transmission firm that has no business generating power through any sources like hydroelectric facilities.

Mendiola also called for a review of the Epira.

"There is no El Niño, we have water. Because of this privatization, the NGCP now dictates on which power sources we should have—hydro, or power barges," the governor said. — Reports from Aida F. Alipede, Ryan B. Rosauro, Edwin O. Fernandez, Primitivo Lira, Aquilino Zarate, Orlando E. Dicoy, Bobby Lagac, Franklin Caligan and Germelina Lacorte

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION

Padcal Operations

16 March 2012, Philex Mines

INVITATION TO SUBMIT INTENTION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID AND NOTICE OF BRIEFING CONFERENCE

PHILEX Mining Corporation, particularly in its Padcal Mining Operations in Sitio Padcal, Camp 3, Tuba, Benguet, hereby invites qualified independent contractors to submit their intention to apply for eligibility to bid and attend the briefing conference for its Padcal Operation's EARTHWORK PROJECT: SUBSIDENCE BACKFILLING.

Only interested qualified bidders are allowed to attend the Briefing Conference on March 22, 2012, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, in Philex Padcal Operations, Admin Conference Room, Sitio Padcal, Camp 3, Tuba, Benguet.

Qualified interested prospective bidders should possess and submit the following eligibility requirements to the Contract Committee Office before or on the day of Briefing Conference the following: *(a) complete Company Profile; (b) PCAB "AAA" Rating; (c) expertise in backfilling/quarrying/open pit earth moving works; (d) manpower/personnel – Project Manager (a mining or civil engineer with 5 years experience in backfilling/quarrying/open pit earth moving works) and MGB-Accredited safety engineer); (e) latest Audited Financial Statement; and (f) list of equipments/units which are either owned, leased and /or under purchase agreement;*

The Contract Committee and/or Philex Mining Corporation assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any and all bidders of any expenses incurred in the preparation and/or submission of their eligibility requirements, or its attendance in the said briefing conference.

EDUARDO M. ARATAS
Contract Committee Chairman

Approved:

LIBBY R. RICAFORT
Vice President & Resident Manager

OVERSEAS Filipinos, including their children, at least 15 years of age, are encouraged to register as overseas absentee voters at the nearest Philippine foreign or consular living people (Ol. —Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Moreta Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Q & A WITH NAOMI S. KIDA

Miss Universe-Japan finalist is Manileña

By Joan V. Sarmiento Jr.

NAOMI S. KIDA is perhaps the first Japino to make it to the finals of Miss Universe-Japan. Born in Tanala, Manila, in June 1980, she made it to the Top 5 of the beauty contest in Tokyo on June 17, 2011.

Naomi is the daughter of Cristina Sienra Sandagon of Imus, Cavite and Masaaru Kida, president of a cement production company.

Fluent in Japanese, English and Filipino, Naomi regularly visits the Philippines and stays in Mimosa, Las Piñas, with her mom.

"If I am back here and speak Tagalog, I have to change my [Nasse-ol] mind. It takes me one to two weeks to adjust," she told the Inquirer over lunch recently at a restaurant in Sakodo Village, Makati City.

She studied in the Philippines—at the Manila Japanese School and the International School—until Grade 4 before she left for Japan.

She went on to study at the Musashino Elementary, Nishishima Junior High School and Shiboshi North High School—all in Miyazaki Prefecture in Kyushu.

She just started a degree in environmental economics from Hosei University in Tokyo.

At 178 cm or 5'7", she is tall by Japanese and Philippine standards. Her height served her well as a volleyball player in school and as a model.

On her calling card with her photo, she describes herself as a free-lance model, a tourism educational consultant and...of course, one of the 2011 Miss Universe-Japan Top 5.

She chose to work in the Philippines and somehow put up an international language school to cater to Japanese who want to learn English.

Her dream is to become a bridge between Japan and the Philippines.

How did your parents meet? Where?

I'm not sure, but I think they met in Romancon, Japan.

How old were you when you left the Philippines for Japan to study?

Actually then I was 11 year old. I have been going back and forth to the Philippines and Japan.

Tell us about your childhood years in Japan.

My childhood years in Japan was not significant because it was his first country visit since he assumed the organization's top post on Jan. 1, 2012.

Garot said Indonesia promised IMO's support for the Philippines' efforts to formulate a national maritime transport strategy, which would serve as a springboard for the consolidation of maritime clusters in the country, comprising seafaring, ship building and repair, and ship management.

Maritime industry stakeholders have been pushing a pro-nine single maritime administration (SMA). This would address the overlapping of functions of agencies, said Conti.

There are more than 13 agencies involved in maritime administration in the country.

Capt. Rodolfo Sapillaga, President of Marines and Mines Association of the Philippines and Secretary Captain Edmer Ichida said this set up is cumbersome, laborious and prone to errors or problems.

Bautista OCW together with our partners OSH President Ruiz Alfredo Antonio Fuentes, Rabaulan ng Marino Presidente Leo Santiago, Capt. Edwin Ichida, Capt. Rodolfo Sapilla and Dennis Quiocho, also talk for the creation of SMA. At a major maritime country, we need to get out act together.

Garot's statement that if is an hoard of *INQUIRER 990 AM* Monday to Friday 7:00 P. *M* p.m. with audio/video his streaming www.inq.com Ch/Hilbus. 335 7200/ 891 6415/ 0908 881 4700. E-mail mandelmayor@yahoo.com / bautistaofficial@yahoo.com

JAPINESS Naomi Kida made it to the top 5 of the 2011 Miss Universe-Japan contest.

Did you enjoy the role of a "mixed maker" of the junior high school volleyball team, what does that mean?

In Japanese school it's always there up my roommates inside the court, for example, when my teammate made a mistake, I used to make them feel that "it's OK." I played volleyball from 5th grade elementary until 2nd grade junior high school. Our team was the final in our city and Top 4 in Miyazaki Prefecture.

What's the name of your dance club at Hosei University? What are your favorite songs for your classes?

I was a part of the "Grocery" dance club at the university. I used to dance to Hip Hop songs like Missy Elliot's "Ching A Ling," Beyonce's, I'm into electro music.

Before joining the Miss Universe Japan, did you win a preliminary beauty contest?

No. We don't have a beauty contest in our profession so I just joined an audition to Ondea Professional Miss passing the audition, I was selected for the semi-finals contest in Tokyo. There was a long process to be a finalist in Miss Universe Japan.

How many contestants joined Miss Universe Japan? What question did the judges ask you during the finals?

There were 35 finalists. They asked me to describe "Infinite" in my own words. My answer was, "Someone is making your own destiny through the choices you make." I said that because of my own experiences. I am who I am now because of the choices I made in the past.

Did organizers of Miss Universe Japan ask you about your ancestry? Was being half-Filipino ever an issue during the contest?

No they didn't. I'm not the first girl who is half-Filipino contest. There were some in the past. But on [us, no half-blooded Japanese has won the title yet.

Have you ever experienced some kind of discrimination because you are half-Filipino?

Yes. I have experienced it. When I was 6 or 7 years old, I couldn't make any Japanese girl friends because they were trying to avoid me. I don't know exactly why, but maybe it was because I was half-Filipino, half-Japanese.

Does your being half have its advantages, too, in Japan? In what way?

Yes, I think so. Because I am trilingual and I have a wider perspective than most Japanese people.

Are you the first contestant of Filipino ancestry to ever join Miss Universe Japan?

I don't know, Maybe?

How long did you model for Amazone in Tokyo? Was it already the beauty pageant? What clothes or brands did you model?

I modeled for Amazone for a year. It was before the Miss U Japan. I modeled Japanese brands like "Mocchocoup" and "Sissy Missha."

Where were you during the March 11 earthquake and tsunami?

I was in Tokyo taking dance lessons. First, I didn't take the tsunami warning so seriously. my friends and I were more joking about it. But after we saw the videos on TV we felt really guilty.

So if calamities happen, we should take the warning serious. It's because we will eventually (a-gen) it if we don't.

While in Japan, what do you miss most about the Philippines?

I miss Christmas the most, because of the happiness. I like spending time with my family and relatives.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are traveling, dancing, riding my bicycle and going to gym classes.

What are your favorite books, movies?

I don't read a lot. My favorite movie is "Pretty Woman" because I like the soundtrack.

Did life change after your good showing in the beauty contest? Did it open opportunities?

Yes in both questions. I was able to establish a connection to both the Japanese and Philippine embassies. Now I'm closer to my dream which is to become the bridge between Japan and the Philippines.

What do you think of Filipino men?

I think Filipino men are very romantic and kind.

What do you think of our bachelor President? Do you have any message for him?

I think it is not a problem that he is a bachelor. It's his choice and it seems like he is working really hard for our country. My message to the President is, "Don't work too hard and please take care of yourself as well."

Have big is the demand for English-language training among Japanese students, people?

The demand is increasing because of globalization. The Japanese people know they need to learn English.

In the Philippines, do people maintain you for Japanese?

No. They consider me as a foreigner. But when I start to talk in them in Tagalog they get surprised every time.

How was the support from the Filipino community in Japan during the Miss Universe-Japan contest?

The Filipino community in my hometown supported me a lot. I didn't have any communications with the other Filipino communities, especially in Tokyo. I didn't receive a lot of support from them, after the pageant. I started to communicate with them.

PH needs to establish single maritime body

By Susan E.

INTERNATIONAL Maritime Organization Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu recently concluded an official two-day visit to the Philippines. He pledged IMO's support for the country's maritime development during his talks with President Benigno Aquino III and other top officials of the country.

According to lawyer Nick Conti, Deputy Administrator of Maritime Industry Authority, who was interviewed during Sudoe Legarda's Senate's Hour with Capt. Rosalio Bataller, Vice President for Operations of Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Sekimizu's visit was significant because it was his first country visit since he assumed the organization's top post on Jan. 1, 2012.

DZIQ 990AM RADYO INQUIRER

Cohabiting partners are also eligible for US visas

SPOUSES of nonimmigrant visa holders are usually granted derivative status and visas to be with their sponsors abroad. A legal relationship must ordinarily be established to be eligible for such a visa. But for those who have been living together without the benefit of marriage, there is still an existing regulation that will allow them to be together during a temporary trip abroad.

Roel and Maria have been living together for 10 years. They are not married but they have 2 children. For the past seven years, Roel has been working as a Product Manager for a manufacturing company that is a subsidiary of a large multinational US-based company.

Recently he was promoted to manage a small team in the US. He would like to bring Maria and their two children with him.

The US company filed a petition for Roel as an intracompany manager. Roel applied for his visa at the US Embassy in Manila. His two minor children were allowed to accompany him. But what about Maria?

Common law spouses

For those living together without the benefit of marriage and who can document their lengthy relationship, the B2 classification could be an appropriate visa for Maria. Note that unless I was 10 years old I started to live in Japan longer than in the Philippines.

The transfer to Japan was gradually not easy because of the new setting, new classmates, etc. How did you cope with these challenges?

At first, it was so difficult to have new friends and sometimes I couldn't speak Japanese fluently. But I don't think back I just need to it. I think kids are more flexible than adults. So, I just naturally adjusted to the Japanese community.

Where in Japan did you stay?

My hometown is Shibushi City. It is located in the southernmost part of Miyazaki Prefecture. Shibushi City is the second largest city in Miyazaki prefecture. The population is around 140,000. It is known for its beautiful scenery. I finished my elementary, junior high and high school in Shibushi. I moved to Tokyo for my university education.

How often did you return to the Philippines?

Before, I came back to the Philippines once a year. Since I went to university, I come back maybe more a year. I usually stay in Las Piñas City with my relatives.

You said you enjoyed the role of a "mixed maker" of the junior high school volleyball team, what does that mean?

In Japanese school it's always there up my roommates inside the court, for example, when my teammate made a mistake, I used to make them feel that "it's OK." I played volleyball from 5th grade elementary until 2nd grade junior high school. Our team was the final in our city and Top 4 in Miyazaki Prefecture.

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Are you the first contestant of Filipino ancestry to ever join Miss Universe Japan?

I don't know, Maybe?

How long did you model for Amazone in Tokyo? Was it already the beauty pageant? What clothes or brands did you model?

I modeled for Amazone for a year. It was before the Miss U Japan. I modeled Japanese brands like "Mocchocoup" and "Sissy Missha."

Where were you during the March 11 earthquake and tsunami?

I was in Tokyo taking dance lessons. First, I didn't take the tsunami warning so seriously. my friends and I were more joking about it. But after we saw the videos on TV we felt really guilty.

So if calamities happen, we should take the warning serious. It's because we will eventually (a-gen) it if we don't.

While in Japan, what do you miss most about the Philippines?

I miss Christmas the most, because of the happiness. I like spending time with my family and relatives.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are traveling, dancing, riding my bicycle and going to gym classes.

What are your favorite books, movies?

I don't read a lot. My favorite movie is "Pretty Woman" because I like the soundtrack.

Did life change after your good showing in the beauty contest? Did it open opportunities?

Yes in both questions. I was able to establish a connection to both the Japanese and Philippine embassies. Now I'm closer to my dream which is to become the bridge between Japan and the Philippines.

What do you think of Filipino men?

I think Filipino men are very romantic and kind.

What do you think of our bachelor President? Do you have any message for him?

I think it is not a problem that he is a bachelor. It's his choice and it seems like he is working really hard for our country. My message to the President is, "Don't work too hard and please take care of yourself as well."

Have big is the demand for English-language training among Japanese students, people?

The demand is increasing because of globalization. The Japanese people know they need to learn English.

In the Philippines, do people maintain you for Japanese?

No. They consider me as a foreigner. But when I start to talk in them in Tagalog they get surprised every time.

How was the support from the Filipino community in Japan during the Miss Universe-Japan contest?

The Filipino community in my hometown supported me a lot. I didn't have any communications with the other Filipino communities, especially in Tokyo. I didn't receive a lot of support from them, after the pageant. I started to communicate with them.

IMFO

Jonvalo Santos Tancinco

that this rule applies only to those who are traveling as temporary workers, investors, students and diplomats posted in the US.

To qualify for a B2 nonimmigrant visa as a domestic partner, the applicant must still prove the temporary nature of the activity in the United States. We intimate, in the case of Roel, he should show that they will return to Manila after a brief stay abroad.

Usually, nonimmigrant workers or students are granted visas from a year's stay for the cohabiting partner, he or she will usually be granted an initial one year under the B2 visa and then the partner can apply for extensions in increments of six months or until such time that his partner returns to the Philippines after accomplishing the intended activity.

Same sex partners, too

Cohabiting partners include both those of the opposite sex as well as same sex partners. This was the interpretation made more than a decade ago by then former Secretary of State Colin Powell in his July 1, 2001, Reference to the cohabiting partners' visa, he emphasized long-term relationships—and this could be true for both opposite and same sex partners.

Usually, a relationship of two years is necessary (one year, one must prove that the relationship is genuine and has existed for a long time. There should be proof of the viability of the relationship such as statements of joint finances, house or deed of sale of their home, guardianship agreements, if available, etc.

Since the visa that will be made available is the B2 visa, the cohabiting partner must still show that he or she has strong ties to the Philippines. This means that the applicant should show that he or she intends to return to the Philippines after the brief stay abroad. A long-term relationship will be a critical factor.

If, however, the principal applicant still has an existing relationship with a legal spouse but maintains a live-in partner, the latter may not be eligible for the B2 visa. Just like an applicant for a visitor's visa, she must have the strength of a domestic partner are high.

(Inquirer may be routed to law@tancinco.com or at 721 1063 or 687 7177)

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2 cops sued over death of 'child rapists'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

UNLIKE RECENT "gun grabbing" incidents, this one might actually go to court.

The Manila Police District has filed homicide charges against two of its members who figured in the death of two rape-slay

JURISDICTION, A14

QC homeowners lose TRO bid vs added tax

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON City court has denied the appeal of a group of homeowners for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against additional dues for real-estate properties under a new tax ordinance on so-called ill housing.

Judge Clarito Gonzales said the Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners Association failed to show proof that they owned properties worth more than P300,000, the value covered by the 0.5-percent additional tax.

In an order dated March 14, the judge also dismissed as "purely speculative" the homeowners' claim that failing to pay the tax might cause them to lose their homes through auction.

"Mere purely speculative is petitioners' allegation that the imposition of the additional tax will lead local officials to irregularities. At any rate, the court is on a loss as to how the said allegation can possibly establish petitioners' entitlement to the relief prayed for," the court stressed.

The court also noted that the petitioners did not submit tax declarations to prove ownership and the value of their properties.

"[They also] did not even offer evidence, such as tax bills, to prove that they have been assessed by the said tax," it added.

The homeowners earlier asked the court to stop the city government from imposing the additional 0.5 percent real estate tax, saying it was unconstitutional.

The additional tax was collected in January under a newly passed Socialized Housing Tax Ordinance, which aims to set aside a fund for housing projects for informal settlers.

Under the measure authored by Councilor Gerv Lagman, the tax will be collected for five years from homeowners whose properties are worth more than P300,000. The additional tax paid will be returned to them after a five-year period through rebates.

In the civil case filed against the lawmaker, named as respondents were Mayor Herbert Bautista, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, members of the city council and city treasurer Edgar Villanueva.

In rejecting the petition for a TRO, the court also noted that the injury that the homeowners said they would suffer because of the additional tax may be remedied reparable and quantifiable.

"The damage to be sustained by the petitioners can be mathematically computed or reasonably measured, the same being based on the amount of additional tax per income will pay by reason of the implementation of the questioned tax ordinance," the order read.

THE FIRE at Ever Gotesco mall in Cubao in Quezon City seems to go on forever Burning at around 10:45 p.m. Friday, firemen were still battling the blaze as of early last night.

Gotesco inferno mocks fire prevention drive

By Kristine Felizze Marguroy

FIRE PREVENTION Month's grave Sembilanan date might trigger challenge on for this year, in the

from a monster blaze that engulfed one of Metro Manila's oldest shopping centers.

As of 7 p.m. last night, a fire

NATIONWIDE, A18

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
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HOME OF THE 2011 BAR EXAMS

2012 PRE-BAR REVIEW

CIVIL LAW
Persons, Family Code, Obligations and Contracts, Sales
Wills & Succession and Property
Credit Transactions / Particular Crimes
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Land Registration, Public Land Act, Condominium & Subdivision Law
Torts
Conflict of Laws
Recent Jurisprudence
Critical Areas in Civil Law

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Criminal Law 2
Special Penal Laws
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Pre-Bar Review Classes will start on April 30, 2012.

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A samurai lives on in Paco

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE VIBE of a samurai leader standing proud at Plaza Dilao in Paco, Manila, may seem out of place to today's locals.

History would show, however, that it conveys a message that transcends time, place and racial divides.

The stern-looking image of a man in robes, his head held back in a severe bun, depicts the 16th century Japanese warrior and feudal lord Takayama Ukon, also known as Takayasu Dario.

But instead of watching the legendary Japanese Shichikensin, Takayama is shown holding a Western-style sword, pointed to the ground, with carvings depicting the crucified Christ.

Takayama's religion is one of the first young Catholic city of Manila in 1614 after being exiled from his fiefdom in Takatsuki, Osaka, for being a Christian. He was welcomed by the locals to the Philippines by the then-governor-general of around 300 exiled Japanese Christians who had refused to renounce their faith despite the persecution they faced during Japan's Tokugawa era.

Due to an illness he contracted during the sea voyage that took many down a month, Takayama died just 40 days after reaching Philippine soil. Still, his

foothold was enough to establish the first Japanese settlement in Manila, particularly in Paco, where the Spaniards later designated the spot known as Plaza Dilao (yellow).

The warm welcome and bond that Manila bestowed on Takayama had since fostered ties between the Philippine capital and his home city of Takatsuki.

The ties were declared sister cities in 1979, and the bond was renewed in rites held at the plaza last month.

"Manila is an important city for us because a lord of Takatsuki was welcomed here and he died here," introduced Takatsuki Mayor Takeshi Hamada said during the visit to Manila.

Hamada was one of 13 Japanese citizens who made a courtesy call on Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. They lamented the lack of delegation from the Takatsuki International Association (TIA) which had been regularly visiting the Philippines for decades.

Amid brass band music, the two mayors presided over a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue, with the youthful looking Japanese official walking closer to the image, looking up and staring at the Takatsuki businessman for almost three minutes as a sign of respect.

"I am sure he's very impressed to see Takatsuki City is proud of him," Hamada said later with the help of an English translator.

Hamada, who was elected mayor last year and was serving the Philippines for the first time, thanked the Filipinos on behalf of his city for extending their warmth to the Japanese, from Takayama's time to the present.

"We value your friendship," Lim said in response.

Earlier during the TIA courtesy call, Lim reminded that though Manila suffered under Japanese occupation in World War II, postwar Japan had always been one of the first countries to come to the aid of the Philippines especially after major disasters.

Asked what Takayama's life could mean to today's Filipinos who barely know the man who came from a different time and culture, the Takatsuki mayor broke into a smile: "From him, we could learn about strong convictions."

"Once he had conviction, he never changed. This kind of attitude should be built not only by Filipinos but also by the Japanese and people around the world," Hamada said.

DILG: PNP, not NBI, is lead hazing prober

By Ed Vea

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) is the one on top of the case of alleged fraternity hazing victim Marvin Reglos, and not the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said on Saturday.

On Friday, the Reglos family lawyers told the Inquirer that he would send the NBI's withdrawal from the case for supposedly meddling in by coming up with findings on the alleged crime scene in Antipolo City which contradicted the report of the local police.

Robredo, asked if he spoke to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima about the case on Friday night and that they both agreed that the Antipolo City police would be in charge of building the case against the suspects.

Robredo said the NBI could help in the investigation but suggested that the bureau refrain from "sensationalizing" the case that the Antipolo police had already built.

The official said he had read the police investigation's report and found their case "solid."

Robredo reminded the NBI that it should never allow itself to be used by Lambda Phi Beta, the fraternity at the center of the police investigation.

Earlier, NBI Death Investigation Division Chief Rafael Tamayo confirmed that Reglos' family had filed a complaint with the agency against fraternity members.

Tamayo, however, said that the hazing case that allegedly killed Reglos on Feb. 19 took place not at Antiliao's Place where it is supposed to have occurred, but in another fraternity—not the Lambda Phi Beta which the Sun Bodo law freshman was trying to join—more staying at the house's first floor.

Tamayo added he spoke to Interior Secretary Leila de Lima about the case on Friday night and that they both agreed that the Antipolo City police would be in charge of building the case against the suspects.

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Tamayo added he spoke to [illegible] eyewitness [illegible] positively identified Lambda Phi members at the alleged crime scene.

He also questioned the findings of the NBI for refuting on the statement of one of the suspects, Arthur Adobo, who claimed that he was neither a Lambda Phi member nor a San Beda student.

Robredo said Adobo's claim was probably a mere diversion. "Any police intelligence report and investigation report is not a certain place would quite understandably try to cover its tracks by using other names."

Cops nab suspect in Tribune man's ambush in Pasig

THE PASIG City Police on Saturday announced the arrest of one of the suspects in the March 11 shooting of The Daily Tribune reporter Ferdinand Angeles.

In a phone interview, the city's police chief, Senior Supt. Jesse Cardenas, said his men had arrested one alias "Fonzi," at the Boadway area on the boundary between Pasig and Cainta City Pasig at around 5 p.m.

He said a picture of the suspect had been shown to Angeles and that the victim confirmed that he was one of the three men who assaulted him in Barangay Palatiw on Sunday night.

Angeles, who sustained seven gunshot wounds, earlier managed to salvage the name of Fonzi to his wife Gemma before losing consciousness at the hospital later that night, according to police reports.

The Pasig police announced the arrest after their highways in the East-ern Police District drew flak from interior Secretary Jesse Robredo for drawing media attention to a pending arrest warrant against Angeles' ever a 2011 drug possession case.

They should be focusing on the hunt for his attackers instead, Robredo said. By Aldwin Felipe Marquinez

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PILOT TESTING OF CONTACTLESS TICKETING SYSTEM FOR MRT3

The Department of Transportation and Communications – Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (DOTC-MRT3) hereby invites interested parties to submit their comprehensive project proposals at the Office of the General Manager on or before 10:00 a.m. of March 27, 2012, pertinent to this RFP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pilot testing of an independent contactless ticketing system for the Yellow Line (EDSA MRT-Line 3).

PROJECT DURATION: April 1, 2012 to January 15, 2015

MINIMUM PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Installation of at least 76 Automatic Gates (A/G) in the 13 stations of the Yellow Line;
2. Supply of at least 1 Million pieces of contactless media/cards;
3. Installation of smart card readers at every A/G machine;
4. Installation of at least fifty-two (52) units of Ticket Value Loading/Reloading Machines, or its equivalent reloading facilities;
5. Installation of software and hardware components (system backbone);
6. Orientation and Training of required staff to handle the day-to-day operations of the contactless ticketing system;
7. Preparation of prescribed procedures and systems necessary for the efficient of operation of the contactless ticketing system;
8. Preparation of business development plan including financial controls and procedures;
9. Maximum project development and installation period of six (6) months; and
10. Project should not entail any cost to DOTC-MRT3, DOTC, or the government.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Proponent, or major partner/s, must have at least five (5) years experience in handling contactless ticketing system in the Philippines or abroad;
2. Proponent must pose a performance bond, callable on demand, equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the project cost.

DOTC-MRT3 reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected proponents. DOTC-MRT3, at its option, may decide to award the contract to the eligible proponent with the most advantageous and responsive offer.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT ENGR. OFELIA D. ASTRERA AT THE DOTC-MRT3 DEPOT OR MAY CALL TELEPHONE NUMBER 920-69-02.

MRT3 HOLY WEEK ADVISORY

In observance of the upcoming Lenten Season and to give way to the yearly maintenance works of the System, **operations of the MRT3 (from North Ave. Station to Taft Ave. Station) will be temporarily suspended from 05 April 2012 to 08 April 2012 (Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday).** Normal operations of the MRT3 will resume on 09 April 2012 (Monday).

2 cops sued...

From page A10

suspects who were under MPD custody.

Charged were SPO4 Nanie Dimaplas and PO3 Rodel Bendoy, who earlier claimed that a "scuffle" led to the fatal shooting of detainees Roderick Salleres, 28, and Cecilio Pelaez Jr., 39, at their cell inside the MPD headquarters on Tuesday night.

According to initial police accounts, the commotion started when Salleres tried to grab Dimaplas's gun, which went off and hit Pelaez. Salleres then rushed to the scene and shot Salleres.

The case drew notice from Commission on Human Rights chair Loretta Rosales, who noted that it was the latest in a series of incidents wherein MPD detainees allegedly tried to grab their police escort's guns and ended up being shot dead.

Salleres and Pelaez, who were facing charges for raping and killing a 7-year-old girl in Sta. Mesa on March 9, they allegedly lured the girl to some vacant lots, after stealing electric cables.

The two suspects confessed to the crime before Mayor Alfredo Lim when presented to the press on Monday.

In a media interview on Thursday, Lim, a former Manila police chief, defended the actions taken by Dimaplas and Bendoy, saying they were only defending themselves "in the face of danger." They actually deserve praise instead of being subjected to investigations, he said.

Apart from the criminal complaint, the two officers could also face administrative sanctions in a separate probe by the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

Gotesco...

From page A10

that began at around 12:45 p.m. on Friday continued to rage at Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Caloocan City, starting at the interior and spreading to the parking area at the back of the complex.

Though the flames were not visible from outside the mall, the smoke and the heat prevented firefighters from taking out at least 50 LPG tanks which were earlier stacked at the mall's parking area, said Mike Villanueva, an investigator of the arson-en task force of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

"It's the reaction the cooks, we may have a series of explosions," Villanueva said when reached by the Inquirer early last night.

Shop owners said the fire apparently started from a Ruby Liquor chill on the ground floor due to faulty electrical wiring.

No deaths were reported but the Philippine National Red Cross said at least one fire volunteer, Renato Salud, sustained injuries from broken glass.

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Greco

STAFF Sgt. Robert Bales (left) participates in the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in this Aug. 23, 2011 photo.

US identifies sergeant in Afghanistan massacre

THE MILITARY on Friday identified the soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan villagers such as little girls and women as Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, a 38-year-old father of two who had been injured twice in combat over the course of four deployments and had, by one account, an exemplary military record.

The silence of Bales' home, first reported by Mark Bowen, ended as extraordinary day-to-day Pentagon briefings about him from the Pentagon, which said it had withheld his identity so long because of concerns about his and his family's security.

An official said on Friday that Bales had been transferred from Kuwait to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he had a cell to himself in the maximum-security prison there. His wife and children were moved from their home in Lake Tapps, Wash., east of Tacoma, into Joint Base Lewis-McChord, his home base, earlier this week.

Military officials say Bales, who has yet to be formally charged, left his small combat outpost in the Panjwai district of Kandahar province early in the morning last Sunday, walked into two nearby villages and there shot or stabbed 16 people, most of them children.

Little more than the outlines of Bales' life are publicly known. His family lived in Lake Tapps, a community about 32 km southeast of his home base. ABC News reported that he was from Ohio, and he may have lived there as a boy. He joined the Army at 27. Bales' hometown lawyer, John Henry Browne, said seven of members of the regiment's family moved to Washington state he was assigned to. John Healey/McClatchy

Browne said he joined the Army eight after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and then spent almost all of his Army career at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where he was part of the 3rd Stryker Brigade in the 2nd Infantry Division, assisted after the eight-wheeled armored Stryker vehicles.

The killings have severely undermined longstanding lines of facts to win support from villagers in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, and have threaten relations with the government of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, who this week told Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta, who was on a visit to Afghanistan, that he wanted US forces out of Afghan villages by mid-year.

Pentagon officials, who have been ensuring the sergeant's military and health records for clues, have said little about what they think motivated the killings. But one senior government official said on Thursday that Bales had been drinking alcohol before the killings and that he might have had marital problems.

"When it all comes out, it will be a combination of stress, alcohol and domestic issues—he just snapped," said the official, who had been briefed on the investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity because the inquiry has not yet been charged.

But Browne has disputed those assertions, telling reporters on Thursday that the sergeant's meetings was routine and questioning any reports about drinking. On the day before the shootings, he said, the sergeant had seen a fellow soldier lose his leg from a buried mine.

Browne, who said he had had a short conversation with Bales because he was worried that the client might not be competent, said he might be called to testify about the sergeant's deployments and was upset when he could not. New York Times News Service

Bin Laden plotted to kill Obama, seized files say

WASHINGTON—A terrorist whom Osama bin Laden wanted to assassinate President Barack Obama was himself killed in a drone strike last year, shortly after evidence of the plot showed up in documents seized by the SEAL team that killed Bin Laden in Pakistan.

The documents include one in which Bin Laden asked his top lieutenant, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, to find out from a Pakistani terrorist named Hafiz Rashmeet "the steps he has taken" toward implementing the Obama plan. He told the top targets of US counterintelligence forces.

That account emerged in a release by David Ignatius published Friday morning on the The Washington Post website. Ignatius said he had been granted access to translations of the documents from the raid last year that have now been declassified and will be made public soon.

It has been known since a few days after the Bin Laden raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan, last year that the documents included evidence of the operations included evidence of Bin Laden's desire to assassinate Obama, who in the end was the first.

But the documents, as quoted by Ignatius, could provide new insights into the al-Qaeda leader's thinking in his influence and capacity for action were functioning by the pressures of the US campaign to find him. In the documents, for sending cues for bureaucratic, theological, operational, and his capacity quickly. Some documents were for dozens of pages.

Ignatius quoted documents in which Bin Laden wanted to organize cells in Afghanistan to attack the aircraft carrying Obama and Gen. David Petraeus, who was then the top regional military commander and who is now director of the CIA.

Bin Laden said can result of the death of the president, adviser he called "the friend of Israel," would be to elevate Vice President Joe Biden, rumbling a certain favorite for a "terrorist" assignment," according to the documents. Pressures was "the man of the hour," Bin Laden said, and his death "would stun the west's push."

Evidently Bin Laden was worried that the deaths of so many innocent Muslims at al-Qaida's hands were damaging its reputation. And Bin Laden feared that the Americans were driving away from the phrase "global war on terror" because it might ring badly in the ears of Muslims. He suggested that a broader, in new appeal to Muslims, the network might want to change its name, which means "the Base," to something like the "Monotheism and Jihad Group."

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Archbishop of Canterbury Williams to step down

LONDON—Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who has spoken out about schisms in the Anglican Communion over women and gay bishops and same-sex unions, announced unexpectedly on Friday that he would step down at the end of the year. He said it was time to move on after a decade as archbishop and he was not an enemy of Muslims but Catholic Cambridge University would appoint him a "more suitable" to take and write about the Church. "I would hope that my successor has the competence of us or and the skin of a rhinoceros," he said. Williams, 61, a white-haired and balding-bearded theologian, will be installed a Church, as 80 million strong worldwide federation of 38 national and regional churches, split between conservatives ready to ethe women bishops and same-sex unions, and conservatives opposed to such modern reforms.

Reuters

Actor Clooney arrested at protest in Washington

WASHINGTON—Hollywood movie star George Clooney was arrested at Sudan's embassy in Washington on Friday at a protest of an escalating emergency as Sudan blocks humanitarian aid from reaching a rebellion

Serviam helps rebuild lives thru Life in the Spirit seminar

DO you have everything that the world can offer yet feel empty inside? Are you a Christian yet feel defeated as to the most part of your life? Are you in search for a higher meaning or purpose in life? If your answer to these questions is YES, this may just be for you.

Serviam Catholic Charismatic Community will host its 12th Life in the Spirit Experience (LSE) on May 18 & 20, 2012 at the Daughters of St. Paul auditorium, 2650 F. B. Harrison St., Pasay City. The seminar is open to everyone, aged 16 years and above, desiring to have a deeper understanding of who they are and why they were created.

Now on its 10th year of fruitful service to God through others, Serviam was founded by the Fernandez, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, and well-known church leader, the late Fernando "Soneo" B. de los Reyes. This LSE is part of its evangelization program.

Life in the Spirit seminar is a formation experience, an introduction into a life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It is surrendering to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and having desire of and cooperating with God's desire for an active personal role in every aspect of life.

Orientation on the LSE will be held on Tuesday, Mar 20, 27 and April 03, 2012 at 6 p.m., Santuario de San Antonio Social Hall (ground floor) prior to Serviam's corporate worship. For inquiries please contact Henry & Susie Ilarmendo (0915-2186233/0917-8080809/02)5125606 or serviam-lsi@yahoo.com.ph; Henry-lsi@yahoo.com) or the Serviam secretariat (720-7669 or serviamsec@serviamccc.org).

The door of amazing possibilities is right before you. Choose to open it and be blessed!

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"BILIB KAMI SA 'YO" – NEW SSS TAGLINE RECOGNIZES WORKERS

The Social Security System (SSS) recently launched its new advertising tagline – **"Bilib Kami Sa 'Yo,"** which recognizes the hardworking Filipino workers who have to sacrifice a lot just so they could provide a better and more secure life to their families.

SSS Vice President for Public Affairs and Special Events Division Mariaeju G. Bugarin said that this new tagline is SSS' way of expressing its appreciation the Filipino workers who realize the value of social security protection and of saving for their future by registering with the SSS and regularly paying their contributions that, in turn, enable them to avail of benefits and loans.

"Our members and their beneficiaries are our reason d'etre. Our members are our reason for being and since they are the most important persons in our institution, it is but fitting that this time we pay tribute to them," VP Bugarin explained. "*Bilib ang SSS sa mga mayamine nito.*"

BILIB KAMI SA'YO.

The SSS supports the Filipino workers in ensuring a secure future for their families. It shall continue to institute reforms that would protect its members and their families, making benefits more meaningful and responsive to their needs wherever they are.

The new tagline is incorporated into the various SSS advertisements and collateral materials currently being disseminated in print and broadcast media.

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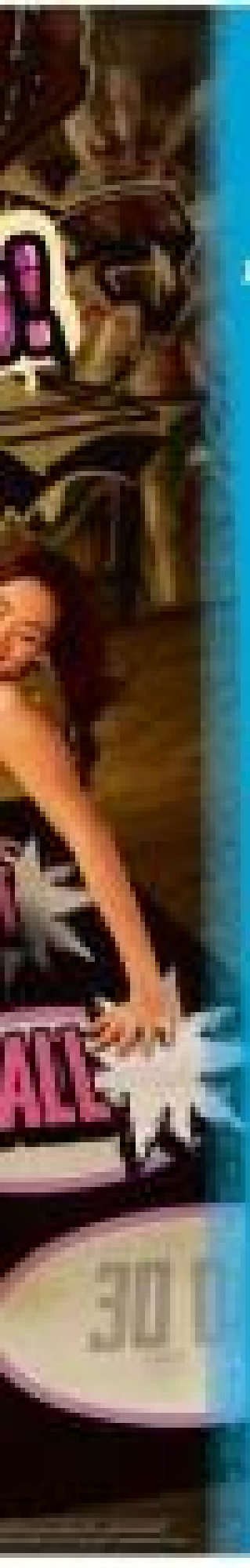

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Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy G. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

JOY OF VICTORY, AGONY OF DEFEAT Azerbaijan defenders Ilkin Aliyev (left) and Rashad Sadygov celebrate after scoring a goal against a dejected Philippine squad in the semifinal of the AFC Challenge Cup at Dasarath Stadium, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu on Friday

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Howard powers Magic /A34

Out of it all, Neil stays with team

By Cedelf P. Tapus

KATHMANDU—Even for the tournament because of a sending-off card, Neil Etheridge could have taken the easy flight out of this Himalayan capital, relaxed in London and remained residing with his club Fulham.

But the Filipino-British goalkeeper, who was earlier doubtful to suit up in the tournament because of club commitments, is staying on in this dakak camp even if he will be ineligible to operate when his back-up Edward Sampson takes over in goal for the third-place clash against Palestine on Monday at the Dasharath Stadium.

"It will be always nothing to

MAY SEE B. A-2

Defeat stings Azkals

Phil: Losing in semis worse than losing in championship

By Cedelf P. Tapus

KATHMANDU—There have been losses of bigger margins, but for the Philippine Azkals, the narrow defeat to Turkmenistan in the AFC Challenge Cup semifinals could be the one that stings the most.

In the country's most important match in recent memory, a six-minute spell filtered by defensive gaffes late in the second half did the Azkals in as they threw away a sure-goal lead, their shot at the title that could have rewarded them at a slot in the AFC Asian Cup in 2015.

There was a palpable feeling of disappointment even during the Everest Hotel near downtown Kathmandu as the Azkals, energized to a third-place battle with Palestine on Monday, nursed their bodies to rest.

"They always say it's worse to lose in the semifinal than a final because at least in the final you get to experience the big day," said leading scorer Phil Younghusband.

Skipper Chieffy Caligdong broke down in tears at the chapter after the match as the Azkals ended one of the most improbable runs in the tournament.

"It's sad when you've worked so hard to get to this point and just fell short," said Caligdong to Filipino.

Missed opportunities continued to mire the Azkals in their attempt to score their first-ever win over Turkmenistan in their fifth meeting, including a 0-6 loss in the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup semifinals.

Younghusband, Caligdong and Jason Castagna, the defender who was in front of his own net when he fired the equalizer in the 88th minute, was still thinking his head at the thought.

It was a case of what-ifs. What if Ray Anunan had doubled the lead before halftime when a corner kick fell kindly into his feet a yard in front of goal only for the Turkmenistan keeper to stop it? What if Lorenzo Isley's stinging shot in the 78th minute found the back of the net? What if Younghusband's shot dropped the ball in Anunan's path before the equalizer and Galindo managed to get a block? What if Iloud Gurbanmuhammedov's deep cross from Gahurmuhammet Chenbayev's dispossessed him?

"Yes, that pain when you think about it over and over again," said Galindo. "It's not like three years or nearly better than so."

"Just getting to the semifinals is a big achievement already, but as players and as a team, we wanted to go that step further," said Younghusband, who gave the Azkals the lead in the 25th minute.

He said those fateful 10 minutes against Turkmenistan, the Azkals were as solid as any team out to in the tournament.

Rebounding resoundingly after a 0-2 defeat to North Korea, the Azkals thrashed former champion India (2-0) and rallied past Central Asian powerhouse Tajikistan (2-1) to gain entrance last four.

They were playing years of the finest football, relying on sweet defending and a swift counter-attack. But that defense had switched off in the final minutes and the result looked terrible.

"Football can be brutal," coach Michael Weiss said. "And yesterday we got a tough, tough lesson to learn from."

Azkals manager Dan Palami said the Azkals can build on the positives from the competition.

"We had to overcome a lot of adversities in and out of the competition," said Palami. "Maybe it's not yet our time."

ALL STAR Boots Manalo (2nd from left) Mayor Ramon Guico III (center) Laoag City Mayor Michael Fariñas (second from left) and PBA commissioner Noli Eala (fifth from left) and the rest of the PBA All-Star Week host stop Ilocos (L to R) with the cast (from left) Boots Manalo sports development officer Anthony Brosas, Laoag City administrator Perla Martinez and PBA rookie Ilocos stud Willie Marcial

Bates resurfaces, apologizes for assault

By Jasmine N. Paje

A WEEK after his stunning late flight back to the United States, former Ultra great Billy Ray Bates revealed how and explained his a reason a month ago. Dead. Dad got him sacked from the Mobile Philippines Patriots.

Bates denied the allegations of the franchise management that he missed several team practices as revoked of without which he was promoted.

"That's not true. I'm a very professional person," Bates told ABS on Friday. "This is very coming person. I've built a relationship with most of the Mobile players. I've even built a relationship, I thought, with the team management."

But it seems as if the Hall-of-Fame import may have blamed up whatever several chances was offered him.

"The timeline everything is messed," team manager Erich Antipolo told the Inquirer yesterday from Kuala Lumpur. "We have some officials and other players reporting to us several incidents of his misconduct. So we gave him a second chance but he blew it."

Mohammad is the "Black Superman," Bates was listed in the Patriots' daily coach in the NBL following his induction in the PBA Hall of Fame last October.

It is no opportunity for redemption for Bates, who battled with alcohol and drugs and was ripped several years in the PBA after his legendary stint in the PBA in the 1980s.

But early this month, the Jacinto Jared Bates "has separated unresolved and now determined to the team and to the league."

"It didn't have any issues," said Bates. "When it's time for us to do basketball camps, to get people to come and support the Patriots, I would get out of my bed at 5 o'clock in the morning and to my offices from to give a message to kids."

Bates, though, admitted he wasn't in a "clear mind" in a recent incident in his condominium where he reportedly assaulted a restaurant, refusal he thought was a reason.

"I would like to apologize to my wife, to my family, to the sports world and most of all to my fans, that my conduct that night was inappropriate," said Bates. "I wasn't in my true mind. It's something that has happened and there's nothing I can do about it except speak out on it."

Baylon still supporting Tigers

CEBU CITY—Looking to the pink of health, Jimmy Alapag and his Rain or Shine teammates are ready to take on the defending champion Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters in the Final Six Phase for an up-to-date video four weeks ago.

Jimmy is the manager of Jolianda Dalisay, the Filipina beauty who got mauled by an irate mob after he defeated Argentina's Juan Martin to win the 2009 US Open tennis title.

Like all the other members of the Gilas pool, Jimmy will be defending champion Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters when they host Barangay Ginebra and his team by the morning.

"We should have a reception after we beat Ginebra. I am black and blue all over from all the beating I got. I also sustained a big lump on top of my head," said Jimmy, who took some time to talk to reporters after practice.

"If you like that video shooting. The wall, super soft attacking somebody under the ring, that can our being attacked," Jimmy said.

According to Jimmy, although no one from their group was injured, at least three was an incident casualty.

"We were fortunate that no one got attacked. Kelly Williams, Jimmy Alapag, Jayson Castro, Ranidel de Ocampo and Jonas Villanueva," added Jimmy

World 9-Ball: Rañola barges into knockout stage, Amit falls

THE PHILIPPINE Ace Rañola cruised into knockout stage of the World 9-Ball Championship after he barged into the Last 24 of the 32-player event on Saturday in Taipei, Taiwan.

The reigning Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist Rañola, playing under the banner of sponsor, Mitsubishi Lancer, "Pinoy" Poyat, advanced after posting a 7-2 win over Lee in the single round elimination in Group stage.

"I have lots (Rañola) keeps her winning streak," Poyat said.

Rañola bested Laetitia Dee Alaiden of France, 7-5, in a do-or-die match to progress.

Rañola opened his campaign with a big win against Yu Hao-Fung of China, 7-4, but lost to Ko Ha-Jung of Korea, 1-7, but bounced back by beating Mirjana Limjoco of Venezuela, 7-1, before losing to Chuck Yu Chen of Chinese-Taipei, 6-7.

Former Women's World 10-ball champion Rubilen "Dragon" Amit, however, failed to enter the knockout stage.

Amit fell to Chen of China losing 1-7, in a must win situation and finished 2-3 in group play.

She beat Magda Ehrengold of Republic of South Africa, 7-0, and Kerri Du of Japan, 7-2, in the first two matches but fell to Yu-Ting Chen of Chinese-Taipei 5-7. Hsu Ju Ting of China, 2-7, and Chen, 1-7, respectively.

Out...

Turn to page A11

watch it from the sidelines, but I will give them my full support and encouragement on SM media," said Ehrhardt, who won one of the 1-2 semifinal ties to Taiwanese Chi Hsiang Chen (Ehrhardt lost after the good-natured shouted the foul).

The play wasn't initially seen by fans as refuse to disrupt, who needed the update of the tournament before choosing Ehrhardt the red card.

"Obviously my lack of professionalism at the end of the game was unlike me," said Ehrhardt, who encountered no such issue after each of the four semifinal matches.

"I was very unprofessional so I have to take responsibility for my actions. It was the heat of the moment and I probably deserved what I got."

The 6-foot-3 stopper cut a frustrating figure as he removed his gloves, took off his jersey and gave it to teammate Cindi de Mesa after Ehrhardt lost the match on goal.

Ehrhardt then walked petulantly to the changing room, done for the tournament minus his spectacle with an

Sunday SPORTS

WASHINGTON Wizards big man Kevin Seraphin (right) blocks a shot by Atlanta Hawks' Zaza Pachulia during the first half of their NBA game.

Howard powers Magic

ORLANDO—Back home for at least one more season, Dwight Howard easily slipped into a familiar role, headlining a balanced Magic attack in an 86-79 victory over the New Jersey Nets Friday in front of an adoring and grateful crowd at the Amway Center.

Howard had 18 points to lead six Magic players in twin digits and dominated a New Jersey team he was reportedly hoping to join before ending all talk by outmaneuvering with Deandre through next season.

"Ten guys I needed out like I never to another team and more back," Howard told reporters. "It was great. I think all the fans that stuck with me all the time, showed me that love."

Orlando extended their advantage by as many as 20 points in the third before coasting to victory. It's despite the Magic's dominance, head coach Stan Van Gundy still saw room for improvement.

"The only thing I was unhappy with honestly was the 20 turnovers and again just rushed," Van Gundy said. "We just don't value the ball very much, we just throw it around and don't really think it matters and that's going to be a huge problem."

New Jersey played without top scorer Deron Williams for the fourth consecutive game with a strained calf muscle while Gerald Wallace, acquired on trade deadline day is expected to join the team on Saturday.

"Some shots didn't go down for us," Nets coach Avery Johnson said. "They have five scorers all around the floor so you've got to guard everybody and they spread the floor."

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 20 points and Ramon Sessions had seven points and five assists in his Lakers debut— a 97-92 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

In New York, Tyson Chandler scored 16 points and Jeremy Lin had 11 as the Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers, 115-110, for their second straight dominant victory under interim coach Mike Woodson.

JR Smith added 16 points and Steve Novak 12 for New York, two nights after the Knicks beat Portland by 42 on the day coach Mike D'Antoni resigned.

In Philadelphia, LeBron James scored 20 points and Dwyane Wade had 12 points and 10 rebounds as the Miami Heat held on to beat

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CENTER FINALS	MARCH 17	MARCH 18
2ND QUALIFYING PERIOD	MARCH 19 – APRIL 13	MARCH 9 – APRIL 13
CENTER FINALS	APRIL 14	APRIL 15
3RD QUALIFYING PERIOD	APRIL 15 – MAY 10	APRIL 16 – MAY 11
CENTER FINALS	MAY 12	MAY 13
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 1)	MAY 18	MAY 20
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 2)		MAY 26 (MALL OF ASIA)
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 3)	MAY 27	
2ND LEG		
1ST QUALIFYING PERIOD	MAY 13 – JUNE 21	MAY 14 – JUNE 22
CENTER FINALS	JUNE 23	JUNE 24
2ND QUALIFYING PERIOD	JUNE 24 – JULY 19	JUNE 25 – JULY 20
CENTER FINALS	JULY 21	JULY 22
3RD QUALIFYING PERIOD	JULY 22 – AUGUST 16	JULY 23 – AUGUST 17
CENTER FINALS	AUGUST 18	AUGUST 19
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 1)	AUGUST 25	AUGUST 26
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 2)	SEPTEMBER 1	
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 3)		SEPTEMBER 2 (SM FAIRVIEW)
3RD LEG		
1ST QUALIFYING PERIOD	AUGUST 19 – SEPTEMBER 27	AUGUST 20 – SEPTEMBER 28
CENTER FINALS	SEPTEMBER 29	SEPTEMBER 30
2ND QUALIFYING PERIOD	SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 25	OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 26
CENTER FINALS	OCTOBER 27	OCTOBER 28
3RD QUALIFYING PERIOD	OCTOBER 28 – NOVEMBER 22	OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 23
CENTER FINALS	NOVEMBER 24	NOVEMBER 25
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 1)	DECEMBER 1	DECEMBER 2
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 2)	DECEMBER 8	
NATIONAL FINALS (DAY 3)		DECEMBER 9

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Salvador loses in playoff hole

SIEM REAP, Cambodia—American rookie David Lipsky produced a superb chip-in birdie to defeat a bubbling Elmer Salvador of the Philippines on the first play-off hole and win the inaugural $360,000 Honda PN Cambodian Classic on Saturday.

The 23-year-old, who won the Asian Tour's Qualifying School in January enjoyed his maiden professional victory in front of six-time Major champion Nick Faldo, who watched the shootout at the impressive Angkor Golf Resort, a course he designed.

Starting the day seven shots off the lead, Lipsky closed with a stunning seven-under par 65 for a 15-under-par 273 total. A gutsy finalist had a 10-foot birdie putt at the last hole in regulation play for the outright win but he missed for a 66.

Lipsky earned $49,500 and a priceless winner's exemption on the Asian Tour until the end of 2014.

Salvador, who took home $32,550 (roughly P1.4 million), had a good look for an outright win but misjudged his putt at the 72nd hole.

"On 18, I changed my putt and my line was not good," said the Filipino. Asian Tour News

John Hay rules Corp Cup

Lloyd Pickett added 32 and 32 points for the hosts, who finished with a 102 for a 218 aggregate in the 50-hole, four-to-play, three-to-count format event.

Hacienda De Oaga totaled a 209 after a 140 for second while A-1 Driving School shot a 136 to finish third with 277.

Business/Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Soft-spoken PDIC prex to get tough on shenanigans

By Michelle V. Ramos

NGUYEN A. Asuncion, appointed president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) in June last year, could have simply continued enjoying a more financially rewarding and less difficult life in the private sector as a banker.

However, when the opportunity to work in government under the current administration beckoned him, he had no second thoughts about obliging.

"I had no hesitancies. I knew I wanted to serve the public under the P-Noy administration," Asuncion tells BizToday. He says the good governance platform of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was something inspiring enough, that he put the urge to leave his comfort zone and take on all the challenges entailed in public service.

Unlike many public figures, the self-effacing Asuncion is aloof from the press. Already nine months on the job, he has yet to call his first press conference (TanzaBiz was just granted this interview after constant prodding of PDIC's public relations staff).

Members of the media who are customarily on the lookout for career moves have different interpretations of his shying away but Asuncion says this was just because he believes in focusing on organization in a deconstricted manner.

And as about any issues involving PDIC, he says at his low-volume voice, the commissioner officers responsible for specific issues are the best to speak.

His unassuming aura, however, does not reflect the very tough agenda he has for PDIC.

Asuncion, who once served as president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and chief operating officer of Philippine National Bank, says that one of the key objectives of PDIC under his leadership is to put dishonest guys in the banking sector behind bars.

He says the scam involving the Legacy Group, the biggest so far in the history of banking in the Philippines, is something the public and the government should not take on with a fist's glove.

The PDIC chief says people should see perpetrators of scams in the banking sector pay for their wrongdoing on that one hand, but individuals are discouraged from placing more financial-related crimes.

The rural banks under the Legacy Group were ordered closed about three years ago by regulators, who said those entities were using wire banking schemes to steal deposit money.

PDIC, being the one in charge of returning money of depositors once a bank is shut down, had to pay a hefty P11.5 billion in deposit insurance.

"PDIC spent P11.5 billion to pay the depositors, but what it has generated so far [from the liquidation of the assets of the closed rural banks] is just half a billion," Asuncion says. "We should not let this go," he adds.

Turnover rates have been lifted against people behind the Legacy Group, owned by Celso delos Angeles, and Asuncion says he wants to see the government succeed too.

PDIC is currently beefing up its legal department, Asuncion says, ensuring it has the resources it needs in pursuing the cases.

He added that PDIC is considering tapping the services of a private law firm to assist its legal staff, if such a move would be given blessing by the Commission on Audit.

"We are strongly pursuing cases versus errant stockholders, directors, managers, and owners of closed banks. It's our job to deter shenanigans and to criminally pursue criminals," Asuncion says.

After the closure of the Legacy-owned banks, there have been more rural banks ordered closed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Asuncion says PDIC is studying the circumstances behind the bank closures to determine any wrongdoing and to pursue cases if any probable criminal offenses are determined.

In the meantime, while PDIC works on the cases involving banking scams, it is also focusing on the equally important task of educating the public about how to avoid being victimized by financial criminals.

Asuncion says PDIC has been conducting road shows in various parts of the archipelago, teaching people how to become intelligent depositors. PDIC has also put up materials on financial education in its website to help the public guard against scams.

For starters, average deposit interest rate is posted in the website and is constantly updated for reference of the public. He says that with this information, people should be wise enough to question the integrity of banks offering deposit interest rates that are absurdly high.

Many banks, including those owned by the Legacy Group, that were ordered closed for unsafe and unsound banking practices were offering interest rates that were way

SEE SPOKEN 82

FINANCE Secretary Cesar Purisima and PDIC president Nguyen Asuncion

Six simple rules for life

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

A FIVE-YEAR old flapper muscles the football out into the field and sprints toward third base.

A tiny midfielder, playing her first soccer match, crashes down and scoops in the first ever goal scored through the print given toward her.

A small child on the basketball court receives a pass from a teammate and excitedly runs to the hoop – without remembering to dribble.

If you've ever coached a children's sports team, then you know the importance of explaining the simple rules of the game.

Initially, chaos and confusion reign supreme as children scramble and themselves to administer regulations. But over time, the once-confusing rules become second nature, and the kids play together without even having to think about them.

Rules to live by

Playing a sport without knowing the rules leads to chaos, confusion, and even result in injury. Likewise, going through life without a reliable set of rules gives rise to disorder, disaster, failure, and even harm.

In this lesson, I'd like to share 21 simple rules that have helped me to navigate life. I hope they provide you with food for thought as you consider, or reconsider, the rules you live by.

Rule no. 1: Put family first.

Lots of leaders give lip service to putting family first, but they don't actually operate giving their spouse or kids top priority.

What does it mean to put family first? For me, it involves substituting success. I do not measure my success in terms of how close I am to the top. Instead, it's when those closest to me love and respect me the most. Practically speaking, I make sure to schedule time with loved ones before setting up work calendar.

It's for more important for me to give quality time to my family than to "get ahead" by working overtime.

Rule no. 2: Believe in the golden Rule.

In followers, we universally ask three questions about our leaders: 1) Do they care for me? 2) Can they help me? 3) Can I trust them?

As a leader, regularly pose these same questions to yourself—Am I caring? Am I helping? Am I reliable?—as a reminder to treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Rule no. 3: Take care of yourself.

Doing something for yourself is not conflict with it's coming out.

In a university commencement address several years ago, Brian Dyson, CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises, spoke of the relation it needs to one's other responsibilities.

Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air.

You name them—work, family, health, friends and spirit and you're keeping all of those in the air.

You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back.

But the other four balls—family, health, friends, and spirit are made of glass.

If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life.

I've learned the importance of this rule the hard way—through the trauma of a heart attack. If you're not carving out time to rest and replenish, for exercise, and to maintain spiritual well-being, then eventually you'll breakdown. When that happens you're no good to anyone.

Rule no. 4: Choose a positive attitude.

Happiness cannot be won, bought, or brought to you by another person.

Rather, it results from a conscious choice to be grateful for our blessings and to make the best of life's hardcircus. Whatever happens to us, we always have control of our thing our attitude.

Rule no. 5: Have a personal growth plan.

The key to personal growth is to have a beginner's mindset. Beginners admit they don't know everything and proceed accordingly.

As a general rule, they're open and humble, constantly looking at the rigidity that often accompanies experience and achievement.

Rule no. 6 Give more than you receive.

Everyone must ask for help at some point along the journey of life, but independent takers are inferior served to serve others.

When I stopped trying to extract value from the people around me, and instead began searching for ways to add value, my influence soared.

Reprinted with permission from The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy. Attend Developing The Leader Within You with Maxwell certified facilitator John Maxwell on March 28-29 at the Raha Energy Jr. Hotel. For more details or to register call 0917.814.7064/813 and visit for upcoming local seminars at inspireleaders.com.ph

Soft-spoken PDIC prexy to get tough ...

Turn page B2

above standard coverage to lure people to depositing money.

"We advise people that if an interest rate being offered is so high, deposince must be sure, High yields usually come with high risks," he says.

He says PDIC also informs people about deposits that are insured and those that are not. Investment products offered by banks are not covered by deposit insurance, he says, and so people wanting to purchase these products must carefully study their designs.

At times, says he wants PDIC, as a co-regulator of the central bank, to have significant contributions to the over-all goal of further strengthening the country's banking arena.

PDIC is pushing for policies and enabling or programs that are geared toward this objective, he says.

One of these policies is the "bridge banking" avenue. For several years now, PDIC has been pushing for an amendment to its charter that will allow the implementation of bridge banking.

Amanda says he wants to see the amendment finally enacted into law under his watch.

Under the proposed system, which Amanda says is observed in advanced countries like the United States and Japan, PDIC will temporarily operate a bank immediately after it is ordered closed so that disruption of service to depositors is avoided.

Such a system, Amanda says, will significantly reduce panic resulting from bank closures.

"So once you see where bridge banking is observed, you will see a bank closed on a Friday and then reopened on Monday," he says.

In the banking sector, panic is deemed costly as this could cause people to withdraw funds even from stable banks. This is the reason PDIC commits to continue payment of deposit insurance, he says, as this eases discomfort among depositors. He says keeping public confidence in the banking sector is a paramount task for the insurance deposit agency.

Amanda says PDIC, together with industry members, is drafting a minimum and enhanced system of operation for rural and cooperative banks. Such a system...which is intended to cover various functions...including supervisory, financial reporting, lending, and treasury—will be designed based on international standards and is aimed at having a more financially sound and stable banking system guided by the principles of good corporate governance.

He says there within 2013 makes it a point to pay deposit insurance as promptly as possible to maintain public confidence in the country's banking sector, there is a higher goal that the deposit insurer wants to achieve.

"What we ultimately want to see is a banking sector that is a...strong—and which is not only strong—but dynamic sector, and thus payment of deposit insurance will no longer be necessary," Amanda says.

DPBM President accepts a plaque of appreciation from Antonio Rabe formerly Commissioner DVP-CDO Jerry Garcia. In a heartfelt appeal to the student leaders at the camp, the ARC awardee requested for prayers as President-elect continues his life-changing mission.

CNN hero champions mentorship in young leaders camp

YOUNGEST, said that honorees are hidden in the package could not have predicted what he's in store for Efren Peñaflorida. The young hero helped Dreamplus Text Gorgeous's Kaelen Klemens and 2009 CNN Hero "Kuya El" was one of the most-anticipated speakers at the first-ever ABC Umbrella Advancements Corporation/ Young Leaders Camp conducted recently in Subic City.

Efren's difficult past—growing up in the slums across Cavite's open pit dumpsite and cemetery—is a gripping story in itself. And yet what made the camp participants composed of freshmen and sophomore college students good from like a rock star is that not only has he overcome the odds, he is financially yet personally paying it forward through his mentorship spirit and dedication that is now being replicated in different parts of the country, and soon in Indonesia.

Starting small and having great odds are things that ABC, the Iconic Philippine distributor of RC Cola knows well. A young leader in the soft drinks industry, the company, for almost nine years now, has been harnessing its strength of knowing the market intimately, engaging in relationships instead of transactions, and helping to safeguard nature. On the way to becoming the world's most successful bottler of RC Cola, ABC has partnered with many programs to discover high school students who were otherwise living disadvantageous lives, they are currently employed in supervisory positions within ABC.

The story of Kuya El and others like him underscore the importance of mentorship as part of the process of growing up a leader.

With the theme call, "Lead, Create, Change," the ABC Young Leaders Camp put together the most personable capable future leaders and gave them the opportunity to develop their capabilities through organizational activities and to learn values from positive role models.

The reality is that for every "Sonsonin" a troubled child encounters, there's a compassionate teacher or parent who can mentor and help nurture things around for the individual.

Honorees speaker Emmanuel Bagtol or "Bagz Ito," a wise 19-year old, about the same age as the camp participants, said of inside heads in every camper's journey, HR Higher or Mind Your Higher, recalls growing up "so dapat ng buntot". Though Emma struggled so much, so young, he realized that there were people who actually cared and recognized his worth. The main dreams of becoming a lawyer so he can help serve poor kids as well.

Kuya El and his fellow hero teacher are considered successful by today's standards despite their fresh beginnings. Yet they know from experience that the true measure of success depends not so much on the number of achievements one has amassed but in believing that you can succeed.

The celebration of the uniqueness of individuals is the very same code that the RC Cola brand lives by and is an underlying principle of the legacy that the company seeks to build in the country.

Embracing one's self is also consistently demonstrated in the 3 Generation leaders. Chris "Boi" Sidder, who was also a speaker at the youth camp. Truly, can is never too good or too young to give back.

The lessons were not lost on the first batch of ABC Young Leaders, which has decided to name its group, Kilusbayan, after an ancient god of healing. Past setbacks and trials to come would only deepen and enlighten the participants' affirmation response to the weekly challenges presented to them throughout the ABC camp. "We have been chosen to lead." Hope is resilient, and thankfully, it is also contagious.

More Filipinos Enjoy Affordable Medicine Today

Now under quality medicines usually come with brands but not a feature. Ito Generika Drugstore defies the notion, providing quality affordable pharmaceutical products and services. In Tilgates, Generika helps customers save up to 60% in medical costs and get more than their money's worth.

Taking further steps to reach more indigent Filipinos, Generika recently partnered with BPI Family Savings Bank (BFSB), through its BPI Family Ka-Negosyo program.

"Choosing for expansion is not just about business operations but also about helping others. BFSB's Ka-Negosyo Franchising Loan addresses the need of those factors unlikely to expand our branches. It will be a win-win situation for the bank and our franchisees," shares Teodoro Frere, Generika President.

Delivering that every Filipino deserves the opportunity to have access to affordable quality medicines, Generika puts emphasis on customer-care above all else, ensuring that customers get only the best products with competitive prices to cover their needs. Generika offers the widest range of quality generic medicines plus competent service, branded convenience and refurbished stores, and creative promotional discount programs as "discount wars in the country."

Frere continues, "Our tagline says 'Abot ka sa Generika.' We put emphasis on the satisfaction of our customers through our excellent service and affordable quality products. That's the key to becoming a success. You nurture your customers while continuously working on the growth and success of your business."

Now with 300 stores, Generika sees great opportunities for expansion. They are partnering with BFSB. Generika plans to open 100 more branches next year. 1,000 branches in five (5) years time, and develop as a home-branded medicine that are of good quality and are more affordable.

"We aim to be the leading drugstore chain offering quality and affordable medicines with supreme customer service and a strong sense of social responsibility," Frere concludes.

BPI Family Ka-Negosyo walk its easy and affordable financial solutions, aims to assist Generika in achieving its vision. "Ka-Negosyo addresses the needs of target market and their aspirations for business success and expansion," shares Teodoro Lauzon Jr., BFSB President.

Generika and BFSB are welcoming motivated and capable acquaintances who can take part in their endeavors. In franchising a Generika Drugstore, Generika is one of the few and happiest acquirers. But but how recently included is the BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Best List program which gives accredited franchisee benefits exclusive perks and privileges such as the an exclusive Franchising Loan, preferential rigorous for bank marketing initiatives, and shorter loan processing time for their franchisees.

Photo shows (L-R) BFSB VP and Ka-Negosyo Loans Division Head, Cesar Reyes; BFSB President, Ted Lauzon; and Generika President, Teodoro Frere.

BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Franchising Loan

in partnership with

Generika

"THEtricks producer (but could." Rachel Ellaine ambassador Reza El Peñaflorida learns a note of inspiration on the ABC Young Leaders Camp commitment wall.

Chasing butterflies, catching dragonflies, counting shooting stars at night. When you have the luxury of building a city from the ground up, you have the chance to make staying outdoors just as pleasurable as staying indoors.

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When was the last time you had a long leisurely conversation with a friend on a park bench, sipping a good cup of coffee under the shade of a tree? Remember the days when you see children playing the same street games that you also enjoyed when you were young? When was the last time you enjoyed your precious "me time"? Remember when you could still find a quiet patch of green, open a book, and enjoy a nice, quiet afternoon?

Everyday, we are faced with countless choices on what to eat or drink, where to party, and what to wear. But eventually all these amusements fade into monotony. When the workday is over or when the weekend comes, where do we go to find respite?

Circulo Verde, a 13-hectare residential enclave in Calle Industria, Bagumbayan, Quezon City, offers to give you back what was lost in city living. This residential haven is set in an elevated podium, creating a tranquil central community park that is exclusive for residents. This means you have more intimate conversations with friends, a place to get to know your neighbors, and more quiet time for yourself. With over 70% of the total area of Circulo Verde dedicated to open space, this is the perfect place for outdoor activities. And since Circulo Verde is planned meticulously, the park's perimeter is guaranteed pedestrian-friendly.

The master plan allows for structures that work with and around nature to make the ideal living space convenient and relaxing. In this symphony of grass, trees, wind and water, stories of childhood games, afternoon picnics, and neighborhood camaraderie will continue to flourish. This is the green living space where the charm of country living meets the conveniences of life in a vibrant city.

Circulo Verde is a project of Ortigas & Company, a long-standing developer of quality residential communities such as Valle Verde and Greenmeadows, as well as shopping destinations like Frendsmall and Greenhills Shopping Center.

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CÍRCULO VERDE

Calle Industria, Quezon City

A masterpiece of Ortigas

Sunday BIZ

Cecil's Café: Turning guests into friends

OLRMQ to Tagaytay right before the Adventist University, Cecil's Café is located on the right side of the road.

She advises that one has to be passionate about what one does.

Text and photos by Ma. Esther Salcedo-Peredo
Contributor

SILANG, CAVITE—The sign at the front door says it all. Cecil's Café wishes to offer a warm, friendly place where families and friends can come together to savor the home cooked meals of Cecil Infanzil—Jasmeo.

First time visitors are often impressed with the dining place's picture perfect interiors, thanks to the Cecil's interior design background.

Her interest in food started in her youth as she grew up in a family that loved to entertain at home. She carries the same mindset in her current endeavor as she describes the way she treats her guests at the café, "I'm having a party in my house."

Cecil simply started in the early '90s by selling mango squares and date bars at Christmas time. Eventually she partnered with a coffee shop located along Aguirre Street in Makati where she did all the cooking and baking. Her consistency was in her home. She also started a full service catering business around 2006.

In October 2011, she finally decided to open her very own café in an obscure location right before the Adventist University along the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay going to Tagaytay. Cecil relates that she would receive business advice that "location, location, location" are very important factors. She asserts that there are out-of-way establishments that have managed to gain a clientele simply through word of mouth.

Cecil's family also has a farmhouse in Talaytay that she offers to friends and visitors who are looking for a place to unwind. It's a two bedroom house that can accommodate an ideal capacity of 6 persons.

She advises that one has to be passionate about what one does. "You do 20 percent work and the rest you have to enjoy," she says. Adequate capital plus good, courteous staff are also needed.

Cecil who also likes the cooking as her café emphasizes the importance of being hands-on in her small business. "I know how to cook and I know how to clean," she remembers.

Another irresistible attraction at her quaint café is the Chinese lumpia also known as fresh "Arroz" (Quezon, Chinese lumpia that was popularized at Crown Panciteria, her mother's former dining place in Greenhills.

Cecil relates that during its peak, the restaurant used to sell about 500 pieces a day. The only difference now is that Cecil uses crepe wrappers instead of the typical rice wrappers from the grocery.

Cecil's Café is open from Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. For directions and more reviews, call 0920-915-7317.

CECIL found inspiration from French and Asian bistros. She also recalled how quaint, family-owned businesses dotted certain areas of Vancouver.

FOR only Php 55, diners can have their fill of the uniquely popular fresh "Arroz" lumpia

Sunday BIZ

Known for 'pancit' Malabon and 'pichi-pichi,' Amber started as a garage eatery

By Sharon Rabor-Mercado

Amber Golden Plate Restaurant staff

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March 23 – 25 | NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan, SM Marilao, SM Tarlac

Visayas

March 16 – 18 | SM City Bacolod, SM City Cebu

March 30 – April 1 | SM City Iloilo

Mindanao

March 16 – 18 | SM Cagayan de Oro

March 23 – 25 | SM City Davao

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March 23-25: NE PACIFIC MALL - CABANATUAN, SM TARLAC, SM MARILAO

VISAYAS:
March 16-18: SM BACOLOD, SM CEBU
March 30 -APRIL 1: SM ILOILO

MINDANAO:
March 16 - 18: SM CDO
March 23-25: SM DAVAO

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People, Events & Products

The Real Bank sustains streak with three more major feats

AND THE streak continues for The Real Bank.

The thrift bank that has been hogging the limelight through its award-winning "Bida ... Bida ... Bilis report at Bilugnayo" advocacy on partnership with the Department of Education and Muntinlupa's local government, kicked off the year with three more major achievements: an extremely well-received travelling exhibit, the launch of *Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe* Book 5 and another thrift award.

"Who would have thought that our year will start with 3 big achievements?," said Jose G. Arnaldo, chair of the Real Bank in his speech during the launch of Book 5 of "Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe," a compilation of true-to-life stories on thrift and savings. "It is our sincerest desire to bring thrift and savings into the children's consciousness as early as grade school that is the foundation of all other activities."

Early this year, The Real Bank's advocacy "Bida ... Bida ... Bilis report at Bilugnayo" launched the "Mahalang Maghanap!" travelling exhibit in 10 selected schools in NCR, Region 5 and Region 4A along with the hardworking son, *Tatyong Tipid*. The Real Bank executive. The mobile exhibit is a school-wide activity that encourages senior participation of the students in pursuing and saving in their homes and community. The exhibit also features the "All-in-one Making Center" which extends beyond the schools and into the communities where they belong.

Anna Lizza Gibbon, vice president for corporate communications of The Real Bank, stressed the importance of assessing the group and acceptance of the program through practical applications of the values being

AT THE "Mga Kwentong Lolo Pepe" Big Book Launch from left, Arnaldo with his wife Zeta Lingering and Department of Education Undersecretary Yolanda Quijano.

CELEBRATING the launch of Book 5 of "Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe" are (from left, front) Real Bank executive vice president Jose G. Arnaldo, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Department of Education Undersecretary Yolanda Quijano, Real Bank president and chief executive officer Jose Lizza Gibbon, Real Bank chairman emeritus Antonio Bautista, Muntinlupa Vice Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Muntinlupa Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Ester Ogania and Real Bank Vice President Ma. Lourdes Fabian.

taught for this advocacy.

One of the components of the "Bida ... Bida ... Bilis report at Bilugnayo" advocacy is the storybook illustrated story books called "Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe (An Pepit report at Bilugnayo)." The big story book is a true-to-life illustration of Lolo Pepe's experiences and how he has grown to become a responsible spender, being penny-wise, and applying it all to achieve his life.

Over the course of eight years, The Real Bank has introduced a big Book 1 and, recently, "Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe" Big Book 5 was launched at the P. Bernardo Elementary School auditorium. The fifth installment of the book details Lolo Pepe's achievements in life, his courage to Amazing Arnaldo and how they taught their first aunt to live a simple and frugal life.

Former DepEd Exec. Mona Labrador and former DepEd Regional Director Fe Hilarinia Garcia, who wrote the book's story, also launched together with other Education officials, Dr. Zenaida Antillo, NCR Elementary supervisor; Dr. Noemi Bellorilla, chief of Physical Education Sports and Events; Dr. Zaha Hadrid, Dr. Francisco Tablad and Dr. Gloria Mendoza, elementary supervisor for the Division of Pasay; Catalino Inarroz, elementary supervisor for Division of Bulacan.

To date, some 150,000 students have enjoyed reading Lolo Pepe's big books given to selected schools of Bien.

The Real Bank's 10th anniversary celebration concluded, "Being Real in a Changing World, an ever-relevant mantra!" that documented the bank's rich history and heritage over 10 years also won an Award Award of Merit for PR Tool.

More amazing perks offered for PLDT Telpad subscribers

POWERED by the Android OS and PLDT myDSL Internet connection and landline service, the PLDT Telpad is truly tomorrow's landline for today's home. Now, myDSL subscribers who upgrade to a Telpad plan will discover that it also offers the best perks.

Until March 31, all PLDT myDSL subscribers who upgrade to any one of their Telpad plans will receive a free topPhone or Samsung handset plus a Talk All SIM on top of the tablet landline.

The addition of the free handset and the Call All SIM via the upgrade promo complements the Telpad package as the ultimate companion for the modern family's digital lifestyle.

For an all-in-one P2199 per month, the Call All SIM allows for unlimited local calls, to and from home, wherever you are in the country as well as long distance or NDD calls to any PLDT landline and mobile for only P1 per minute.

Meanwhile, existing Telpad subscribers can also choose to top up their existing plans with WiFi Zone powered by PLDT Fibr (an additional P1,500 per month), subscribers can enjoy premium, unlimited and fast WiFi connection in over 2,500 establishments so families can always stay connected via the Telpad.

The Telpad is a touch-screen navigation tablet landline powered by Android and equipped with multimedia services including photo and video image capture and music files storage.

A first of its kind, the Telpad's unique features revolutionize the way families and loved ones connect to this digital era.

The Telpad is available in two models—the ZT-180m which is packed with 8 GB built in memory, 512 MB RAM, 1 GHz Qualcomm processor and powered by Android Froyo 2.2; and the upgraded Wave 2.3 powered by the Gingerbread Android operating software which has features improved graphics and more efficient memory management.

For more details about these promos, visit http://www.PLDTTelpad.com/

SM Supermalls celebrate International Women's Day

THE SM Cares Program for Women's Affairs together with the Inter-national Labor Organization (ILO) recently celebrated the International Women's Day with the launch of the week-long "Shift at Kaya sa Pilipinas Kumikilos sa Kalayaan Para sa Kababaihan" at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The exhibit acknowledged the accomplished contributions of local women across the country for narrowing the gender-based divide between males and females and contributing countless to work as the economy. They comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries and 70 percent of the labor force in agriculture-intensive economies working as farmers, wage laborers and entrepreneurs. The event also called for action to ensure that all rural women can live and work to dignity by recognizing their roles and capacities to direct as financial contributors and people-centered development. Guest to attend the launch were Ms. Fatima Aleth Bongcaras, Representative of Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis Baldoz; Ms. Gwendolyn Pang, Executive of SM Foundation Fund and Chair of SM Inner Wheels Steering Committee; Lisa-rose Jeff Johnson, Director of ILO Country Office for the Philippines and Chair of UN Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples; Vin Justice Dee, Manny Calasicas, Representative of the 2nd District of Agusan Del Norte and Vice Chair of the Committee on National Cultural Communities and Anna Garcia, president of SM Supermalls.

Nokia rules Mobile World Congress

NOKIA proved once more that it remains a global leader in mobile communications with prestigious awards won at the recent GSMA Mobile World Congress 2012 held at Fira Gran Juan, in Barcelona, Spain.

The GSMA Mobile World Congress is the world's largest annual trade show in the mobile industry that brings together industry leaders, key players, mobile operators, device manufacturers, technology providers, vendors and content owners worldwide to showcase the latest in mobile technology through exhibitions and conferences provide a venue for participants to collaborate and network to strengthen and explore high-growth opportunities in the mobile phone business.

The year's GSMA Mobile World Congress featured the theme "Redefining Mobile," which showcased how mobile, now more than just a voice communication device, have transcended the world today through its enhancements—now serving as books, health monitors, payment terminals, social connectors and tour guides. This year's theme also offered a glimpse into where mobile has the potential to go next.

Nokia Lumia 610

One of the highlights of the event was the Global Mobile Awards, which recognized the greatest, most creative and innovative products and services driving the mobile ecosystem today and into the future.

At the Global Mobile Awards, Nokia scooped the prestigious Best New Mobile Handset, Smartphone or Tablet Award for the new Nokia 808 PureView. The first smartphone to feature Nokia's exclusive new PureView technology, Nokia 808 PureView features a revolutionary 41-megapixel camera with the highest pixel resolution ever seen in any device, redefining the quality of today's camera phone photography.

Nokia's other wins this prestigious award for the Nokia 808 PureView, Nokia likewise received more top awards at the GSMA Mobile World Congress 2012. Nokia was awarded Best Battery Phone for the Nokia C5-06; Best Hardware Item of Show, Lumia Magnifier's Best Budget Smartphone, and Computer Active's Best Windows Smartphone for the Nokia Lumia 610; and Computer Active's Best Education Service Award for Nokia Mobile Education.

Smart offers Android smartphone for P1

WIRELESS leader Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) is holding the first ever "free tulo" on a selection of handsets—including smartphones Telephone 701 and Huawei U8500—bundled with the best-selling Bro Postpaid Plan 999, which provides unlimited SMS and calls to any Smart or Talk 'N' Text number. The plan comes with a lock-in period of 24 months.

Both the Telephone 701 and Huawei U8500 run on Google's Android operating system, enabling them to access thousands of free applications through the Android Market.

The other handsets included in the Five Tulo are the Alcatel OT-3040D, Cherry Mobile B13, Nokia 2730c, Nokia C2-01, Nokia X2-01, and the touchscreen Samsung Champ (C3303).

All these phones are Java-capable, meaning they allow the installation of many applications.

The promo will run until March 31, but the devices will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Visit the nearest Smart store to apply for the device-plan combo. Just bring a valid ID, proof of address like utility bills, and proof of income, such as the latest income tax return.

The Chicken Rice Shop opens three more branches

THE CHICKEN Rice Shop, the Indonesian food franchise that debuted with a successful store in Greenhills last year, has opened two more branches.

The stores opened for the second Quezon City branch of The Chicken Rice Shop last Jan. 22, with guests and VIPs treated to music, a dancing dragon and lion, delicious food, freebies and of course, The Chicken Rice Shop delicious and affordable South East Asian chicken dishes.

The Chicken Rice Shop Batiquana was branch has an ongoing "2 in 1 Treats" where guests may avail of any one of their four promotions from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. everyday.

Promos are either a 1/2 portion dressed for a minimum purchase of P350, a free Green Jelly drink with any noodle order, a free iced tea for any order of a grilled chicken meal, or a free appetizer of your choice (Siomai Pai Tee, Golden Fortune Rolls or Hong Kong Rollin with Oyster Sauce) for every order of a whole chicken. These promos are available only at The Chicken Rice Shop Batiquana branch.

The Chicken Rice Shop Greenhills branch.

The Chicken Rice Shop also opened two more branches recently, one at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, and another at Harbour Square, DCP Complex. To celebrate the opening of these new branches, all three will be giving away a free appetizer for every order of a whole chicken.

The Chicken Rice Shop's menu includes the traditional Malaysian Dit Tee or "Tip Top," their signature appetizer, made up of crispy pastry shells filled with shredded vegetables and chicken meat accompanied by a tangy sweet sour sauce; the Chicken Curry offers a bit more kick with thick curry sauce made with coconut milk and dried potatoes; and of course, The Chicken Rice Shops' signature Hainanese Chicken, succulent chicken boiled in a pot seasoned with herbs and dipped in ice-cold water. More sumptuous chicken dishes, refreshing drinks, and tempting desserts that guarantee value for money.

Whirlpool holds laundry seminar

AS PART of its corporate citizenship program and to assist subscribers in maximizing their capacity to care for clothes and prolong their laundry, Whirlpool will be holding a laundry seminar on April 20 and 21 (Friday and Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Dusit Thani Manila, 1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The seminar is organized by Whirlpool. The world's leading manufacturer of washing machines, as well as other white line appliances, is intended to support, educate and encourage parents who are looking for easy solutions to get into a laundry routine.

Whirlpool's in-house laundry expert, Ms Elizabeth Ann Bautista, will be the seminar's resource speaker. She will be sharing her knowledge on how to pair up clothes and prolong their lifespan, as well as how to use the machine and its different cycles.

Bautista will also be giving tips on how to remove stubborn stains and how to properly dry clothes.

Whirlpool is also offering free laundry bags to the first 50 participants who will register for the seminar.

Pag-IBIG declares over P8.4B dividends for 2011

THE PAG-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees has approved the declaration of P8.401 billion worth of dividends for 2011. This was announced by Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, who is concurrently Chair of the Pag-IBIG Board, according to the Vice President, the amount of dividends is equivalent to 71 percent of the Pag-IBIG's net income for 2011. This shall be distributed among the Fund's 14.2 million members.

"In effect, individual members' savings have soared around 4.15 percent for the year. This is definitely higher than what our bank giants to their clients," VP Binay added.

Pag-IBIG Chief Executive Officer Atty. Emmanuel Dalisay Marie B. Bethevole explained that based on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9679 or the HDMF Law of 2009, the Board of Trustees is required to set aside an amount not less than 70 percent of Pag-IBIG's annual net income to be paid to members in the form of dividends. "The dividend earnings are proportionately credited to the member's total savings. We wish to clarify, however, that unlike dividends provided by other financing institutions, Pag-IBIG dividends may be withdrawn only at times of unemployment, disability, separation with the member's personal contributions and the employer share," the CEO added. Dividend earnings are tax-free.

Local reps to Kaspersky confab announced

TWO groups from the University of the Philippines (UP) have been selected as finalists in the second-quarter national educational event by Kaspersky Lab, a leading Internet management solutions developer. Kaspersky Lab. Students' Challenge 2012 for the Philippines, an all-expense-paid trip to Kaspersky Lab International Student Conference Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa (ISC APAME), an annual event that brings together students and young professionals in a collaborative environment to present and discuss issues relating to cybercrime. The conference is from March 14 to 18 at the City University of Hong Kong. Team Mahusay and Let me Train Dat ZP Department of Computer Science (UP-CSS) Diliman Campus.

Ayala Land says Baguio developers can build around pine trees

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Real estate giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) has offered its Baguio Technohub project in Camp John Hay to proof that developers can build in the summer capital without harming its trees.

Javier Hernandez, ALI assistant vice president for commercial business groups, on Monday said they have distributed five building projects and smaller retail outlets around their 13-hectare leased section in Camp John Hay to spare pine trees.

"We did not cut trees. We don't need to cut trees. To each is done," Hernandez says, after ALI learned about the city's problem about a development project that would have to displace more than 300 trees, including the Benguet pine.

The Technohub is composed of five business process outsourcing (BPO) buildings that make up an information technology zone and a cluster of retail outlets.

Hernandez says the first BPO building to locate near the tallest pine tree in the area, which is about four-story high. This four hectares occupied by Convergys.

A second BPO building is rising across the Convergys facility. The first area behind this building has been reserved for a third BPO building. The two other BPO buildings would rise on the land that need to survive as a camping site for seniors in the '70s and '80s.

"These areas have no trees," Hernandez says.

He adds the structures housing the retail outlets are no higher than two story high buildings because they were designed to rise between the trees.

As seen in ALI pursued the Technohub project, it was handed a blueprint that required less impact facilities to rise on the leased area, he says.

Hernandez was referring to a 1996 master development plan that bursts 19 consultancy by the Baguio government.

He says following this prescription to the letter means ALI needed to spread out its facilities which would cost more because of the wider housekeeping service area.

"It was more expensive, but it was the right thing to do," he says.

With permission from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, only three trees were relocated and eight trees were trimmed," ALI says in a statement.

ALI officials say they pursued the Baguio Technohub with a conscious effort "to maintain and cultivate the natural landscape of the city of pines."

It interested that the company planted 1,000 pine trees in 2009 and another 2,000 trees in 2010.

The city council has been swamped with letters protesting a plan of a shopping mall chain to cut or marshall trees for its expansion.

The John Hay Special Economic Zone was also embroiled in its own tree-cutting issue because of a debt feud between the 181 leases-owned Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) and the Baguio Convention and Development Authority (BCDA) that spans 15 years.

CJHDevco had asked an arbitrator to intervene, claiming that BCDA had failed to secure the permits which would have allowed it to proceed with projects on time, including tree-cutting permits.

TINABUAN ARTS & CRAFTS

Producing value-added products from handloom fabric

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

LAGINGILING, Misamis Oriental—Someone "Esmeo" Gabecino owns Tinabuan Arts and Crafts, a mom-and-pop enterprise under the DTI One Town, One Product (OTOP) program in this municipality.

A graduate in by training, she dared her ding mate and later shop in 2000 in order to put up a handicraft business.

At that time, Esmeo was concerned that she skilled women weavers in her town were underemployed. At the invitation of the Department of Trade and Industry, she organized the weavers so that they may avail themselves, as a group, of technical assistance from the DTI.

In a series of product training workshops, the women learned how to produce value-added products from the hemmed fabric they weave, that is, to transform the weaver to end producers.

After the training, Esmeo asked them if they were willing to work for her. Many agreed.

She now has 10 weavers and 20 coilers working for Tinabuan Arts and Crafts and producing bags, purses, hats and other fashion accessories, placemats and coasters, holiday decors, flowers, blinds and pillows...all made from abaca or other. The company also sells cleaning rolls as other stationary conveyors.

As she grows her business, Esmeo now 51, has stuck to some personal principles that have helped forge her distinct product identity and carve her market niche.

Product identity

"To establish her unique product image, she eschewed the colorful weave fabrics into refined weavers are traditionally known for in favor of the plain-still, "This is my personal definition. Why use bukidnon design when this is Misamis Oriental?" As far as she knows, she is the only bag producer in Misamis using plain, one-color handwoven fabrics.

Her status on being different "I do not want to do something that others have already done. For example, it's the thing long we are developing, we are looking for something new to handles other than the usual wood. Leather seems promising and we are experimenting with it."

Esmeo also listened to visiting buyers and stores from Canadian exports who studied her operations intensively.

Most of her products are slightly high-end. "Those long gummed up cheap, same 4o up common. Misamis gumon as Bukidnon."

Most of all, she takes pride in her "made in Misamis Oriental" label. Recently she had a big-volume order from buyers who intended to export their own brand on Esmeo's "Tinabuan." She backed out from the deal. She thought asserting over what of the buyer would be a disservice to her workers, her weavers, her home-town and province.

She said to be her own designer, getting inspiration from trade fairs, from design magazines, and from seminars she always makes it a point to attend.

Lately, she has been able to engage the services of a professional designer on call basis.

ESMEE Gabecino shows off holiday decors of abaca.

Sustaining the market

Marketing Tinabuan products has not been a walk in the park.

At first, she put up her own sales outlet along Pelayo Street in Cagayan de Oro. Before long, she closed it down when it proved too expensive to maintain on account of the limited sales it was generating.

It was initially hard to sell the products and she started to find stirrings of doubt. There last year, who was then chief of staff for a congressman, gave away some of her products among his office friends. This resulted in name-to-face. From word of mouth, Tinabuan gained popularity.

Since her products were being carried by the Misamis Product Showroom, a marketing project coordinated by DTI.

Tinabuan products are now also for found in other DTI showrooms, specialty stores, the Isla Trade Center in Cagayan de Oro, and souvenir shops around the area. Some five-star hotels in Misamis would soon be displaying the bags and housewares, too, if negotiations go through.

Local government is a loyal Tinabuan customer. The office of the governor of Misamis Oriental and the mayor of Lagingiling would often buy abaca products from Esmeo to give away to official visitors. DTI also buys items from her for its seminars and conferences.

There were opportunities to export, she recounts, but she had to turn those down because supply of abaca is unstable and because she didn't have enough weavers.

Outlook

Notably, Esmeo put up the business with her own money grew it with her own money, and still doesn't see her self borrowing in the future.

While she seems resolutely financially self-reliant, she is quite open to technical and marketing assistance.

At the OTOP project of Lagingiling, she stresses industry has been the recipient of DTI interventions—upskill-ir building for skilled workers and management; product and design development; and promotional and marketing assistance.

Tinabuan Arts and Crafts is considered the local enterprise in the OTOP project—the prime mover in the production and processing of well-designed stationary and accessory products in the municipality.

Esmeo looks forward to a bigger market next year, with more exposure of her products in a recent DTI trade fair, many buyers expressed interest in Tinabuan which she hopes would translate into orders.

Also, Tinabuan Arts and Crafts is one of the small enterprises to be featured in the upcoming book of the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation on "Product Strategies of Micro and Small Businesses." Her story expressed-of entire, and starting and growing a business know-to, visit www.serdf.org.

An array of Tinabuan products

Known for 'pancit' Malabon and 'pichi-pichi'. . .

From page B1-1

three years, after which Espiritu would use the place for his cruise-ship business.

In December 1980, the first Aruber restaurant Amber Golden Plaza was established along Roxas st. in Makati. Besides had only four employees at the start.

"Di ga sa dar market, dere da the cooking, that cuts the market," Rhoda, 62, says in Filipino. But despite the arduous tasks, she was happy because the restaurant was always full of customers.

Pansit Malabon and pichi-pichi, which Pontino asked and prepared herself, were the ranch specialties.

Pichi-pichi was sold for 25 centavos a piece then, while an order of pansit was P1.5 - P1.8 only.

"When I was still young, my aunt, who has a catering business, would bring me along with her so that's where I learned and developed my cooking skills," Sheelina shares.

Because of Andrew's success, Rhoda's uncle decided to look for another place to locate his cruise-ship and let her continue with the restaurant business.

Rhoda wasn't able to finish her schooling, but she's happy and proud because her "lupig sa ugat" brought them good fortune. "Yun ang ang pahuwan ko," she stresses.

Her husband Boyet, who used to drive a passenger jeepney and a school service vehicle in Malabon, now helps in running the business together with their children Rhoda Fernandez and Rhonald.

Eldest daughter Rhoda joined the business in 1995. She finished BS Sociology from UP Los Baños, MBA in the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, and Master in Total Service Administration from UP Diliman.

Rhonald took up electrical and communications engineering at De La Salle University. He used to work in the United States but returned to the Philippines in 2008 to join the family business.

Rhoda said that at one her hobby-turned-study for her graduate studies in UP Diliman that led to the opening of the second Amber restaurant in Mezzanine, exactly 13 years after the first branch started at 30...expand the business and ran every round already that you can think of (for name)"...seemed being a symbol of prosperity.

The restaurant is named after Andrew, a cake from a love nap which is golden-brown in color and believed by the Chinese to be lucky in fortune.

Although managing two branches now tough, Rhoda had bigger plans for Amber.

"I'm very aggressive, so I told my parents we shouldn't stop there/having/one/cooker. We're going to open more," recalls Rhoda, who also attended Culinary Institute of Asiatica, and the Institute of Culinary Education in New York.

Soon, two more branches opened in 2000—Amber Golden Pot Restaurant in Mandaluyong and Amber Golden Bowl Restaurant in Quezon City.

When her brother Rhonald decided to open a branch, they worked together in running the business and were able to open the fifth branch, Amber Golden Cup Restaurant in Pantranan last year.

opened in Makati.

Her grandfather Lolo Daddy, who has been very supportive and proud of her interest in further studies, asked her if she was interested to open another branch just across his machine shop in Mandaluyon. Rhoda said yes and put up Golden Spoon Restaurant in 1998.

She recalls how he gifted her with a coin bank on her 30th birthday with a note saying "Iney my life begins at 40 but yours

"By parents, my brother and I are all hands on in the business. Mama and Papa usually handle operations, the supplies, etc. Rhonald takes care of the existing branches and is also in charge of finding the right locations for future store outlets. While I handle the management, accounting and all the paperwork," explains Rhoda.

To ensure the best quality of Amber's food, cooks are trained in the Makati branch before they are deployed to other branches.

"Everything is standardized, as the pansit is all our branches tastes the same," Rhoda explains.

Aside from pansit Malabon and pichi-pichi, spaghetti, shakeys lollipops and tempting shrimp are Amber's bestsellers.

The menu is also starting to do many with plates, bags for its "take-out" containers and open on are brown paper bags and boxes instead.

From a handful of employees in 1980, Amber now employs more than 200 workers in all its branches.

The number reaches 400 during peak seasons (October to January) when additional personnel are hired to meet the high demand of orders, according to Rhoda.

Most of the workers have been with them for many years, one of whom has been with Amber since its inception in 1980.

"They have become part of our family," Rhoda boasts.

In fact, like a doting mother, Rhoda still prepares the menus for the five employees' meals (from breakfast to dinner). An in-house doctor also holds clinic in the main restaurant for the medical needs of the employees and their families.

During Christmas parties and the birthdays of Rhoda, employees come together for a fun-filled "family" day.

The workers in love them because in 2007 when Gilda got sick and needed an operation, employees stepped to the hospital to donate blood and to attend the family member afflicted by her.

"That's one thing I always tell my children. To always look after the welfare of our employees. Kasi pag nabuhol mo sila, mamahalin ka rin nila at ang kompanya," Gilda emphasizes.

Andrew has come a long way from its humble beginnings and the Fuentes family vows to continue its tradition of serving Davao with good food at affordable prices.

Sunday BIZ

Rookie developer gives 'something new yet something old' to the market

START YOUR OWN PHOTO BUSINESS !!
Kodak 605 Photo Printer

By GDC Cebrangan

THE first-time real estate developer with an old-rich pedigree, it's still big to be upstart among established market players.

"We wanted to bring something new, yet something old to the market. Something Santa Rosans will appreciate in contrast to other residential developments," says John F. Reyes, CEO of SOC Land Development Corp., a subsidiary of publicly listed South China Resources Inc., which counts the old-rich families Puyat-Reyes, Ortigas, Madrigal and Alsons as stockholders.

Reyes, a fourth-generation Puyat, says that South China Resources decided to finally branch out into real estate in December 2010 because they felt that the market wasn't being served properly. "We wanted to give customers a very different product and different ancillary services as well," says Reyes.

And four months after it was formed, SOC Land broke ground for its first project, Amaia, a fast-rising retail which seems sure to succeed, on one of its land assets along Southern Luzon Expressway's (SLEX) toll-free road where the value of the real estate has more than tripled.

"It's the most competitive time of housing development around. The biggest names in the industry are there, building projects in a market niche I said our residential concept we want to cater to. So our view is that the product rule to give us our proof of concept" says Reyes, who steered the family's Basic Ed business, MVJ, into the industry's dominant player.

At first glance, Amaia looks just one of the new developers that offer a cluster of mid-rise residential towers with the token swimming pool and a patch of green as come-ons that have become the rage among middle-income families.

But Amaia's strengths are in attention to the details.

"We believe in delivering not only with but also, substance in our projects, from the design to the actual construction. Our top concern was to give more to buyers than anyone else at this price point," says Reyes.

From square meters to a square attitude, Reyes says SOC Land has set a high standard for itself while keeping distant from the competition.

"All our units are evenly shaped unlike the narrow, rectangular units favored by most developers. This makes for a more balanced layout, more livable interior design, fit the ideal layout for living," says Reyes. "In our units, the first room you step into are the living and dining areas. The kitchen is at the far end where it should be with its own exhaust window so your neighbors won't smell your cooking in the condos. We've also incorporated all units with their own laundry area so you don't have to go to the rooftop to dry your clothes."

Reyes says Amaia's greatest selling point is its 50 percent open space. With such a wide open space, their landscape architect, Paulo G. Alimurung, and their land development consultant, Ittrich Manggay, had a huge palette to design great amenities such as a 50-meter lap pool, lagoons, a lazy river, and themed parks and gardens.

"Giving 50 percent open space is no tradeoffs first in this segment," says Reyes when asked why. But Filipino workers abroad would appreciate SOC Land's bravery.

Reyes says SOC Land also made up its mind to do things differently in marketing by not going the pre-selling route.

"Other developers will wait they sell 30 percent of the units before breaking ground. We started construction even before a single unit was sold. We felt that this was the only way to demonstrate to the market that SOC Land is committed to this business for the long term," says Reyes.

Zealand will see Amaia as its showcase of what buyers expect from the rookie developer in its coming projects. "Our advantage is that we own the land we will develop, we don't need to spend multi-millions. We have a nice land bank and we discovered with Amaia that we can go beyond to land with the best of them in the industry," says Reyes.

John F. Reyes, CEO of SOC Land (right), with consultants and executives

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

TV HOST and mama actor Toni Gonzaga enjoys online shopping on her mobile phone.

How shoe-shopaholic Toni Gonzaga gets the best deal

Non-techie celebrity finds her gadget

By Irene C. Pena

CELEBRITY TONI Gonzaga admits she's no techie. She does not upgrade her gadgets every time new models come out. She hardly downloads apps and and does not read e-books.

However, she links electronics to fashion. "In fact, a cellphone has a special purpose: online shopping."

Using her Samsung Champ Deluxe, the newest touch-screen phone and the latest in the Champ line of affordable and sleek units from the Korean electronics giant, Gonzaga updates her shoe collection "once a month, or every other month."

Gonzaga said her tech needs are basic: call, text and surf. She uses the Dressupgo app for photo-editing and enjoys games like Angry Birds.

"I got hooked on Angry Birds before, until I realized I'd rather send 'treasure I love, and I want to' notes instead," the regularly visits Pinoyexchange, Yahoo! News and ABS-CBN.com to keep herself updated.

She has no Twitter or Facebook account. She explained she wants to keep her thoughts to herself and instead reaches out to her followers through her live shows.

The Samsung Champ Deluxe covers her communication needs with its dual-SIM feature which allows the use of two numbers. The smooth design and chic metallic finish go well with any outfit, too.

Samsung Champ Deluxe was recently launched at the Trade Center mall in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Basic Android phone

Gene Domingo, Samsung product manager and head for mobile phones, pointed out he is the most friendly Champ Deluxe sets to particular the needs of young people who want a basic touch-screen, Internet-ready Android phone. Android is an operating system that lets users download free and paid apps, from games to educational programs.

"Samsung is almost synonymous with Android," said Domingo. "We offer mobile-phone choices, from the high-end to the entry-level, all made with the same technology and quality the brand is known for."

Among the Champ Deluxe's features are the 2.8-inch screen, 1.3-megapixel camera with 2x digital zoom, Bluetooth connectivity, video recording and playback, FM radio, built-in music player. It comes with a 256MB user memory which is expandable up to 16GB. Price is P4,499.

It also has the ChatOn instant messaging app, a multi-platform messenger exclusive to Samsung phones that lets you communicate with other users who are using different phone brands and models.

Online shopping

The Champ Deluxe is a multi-tasker, perky mode like Gonzaga who shops and

MORE ON

Filipino architect designs Tory Burch's new Southampton mansion

RENOWNED Manhattan-based Filipino architect and designer Daniel Romualdez is in the limelight again for his stunning work on designer Tory Burch's new Southampton digs featured in the March issue of Vogue.

Mister Hamish Bowles describes the design as "the sort of house that Jay Gatsby might have had if he had a Dany Beckmann and wife for whom to impress."

The house, originally built as a 25-room mansion in 1930, has been made "as spacious-feels as Tory is," Romualdez said in the interview. Romualdez has also designed Burch's apartment in New York City and her showroom in Soho.

Romualdez pays particular tribute to "a beautiful construction" in the living room: "...windows were hung with grapefruit-pink curtains to catch the room's diamond light."

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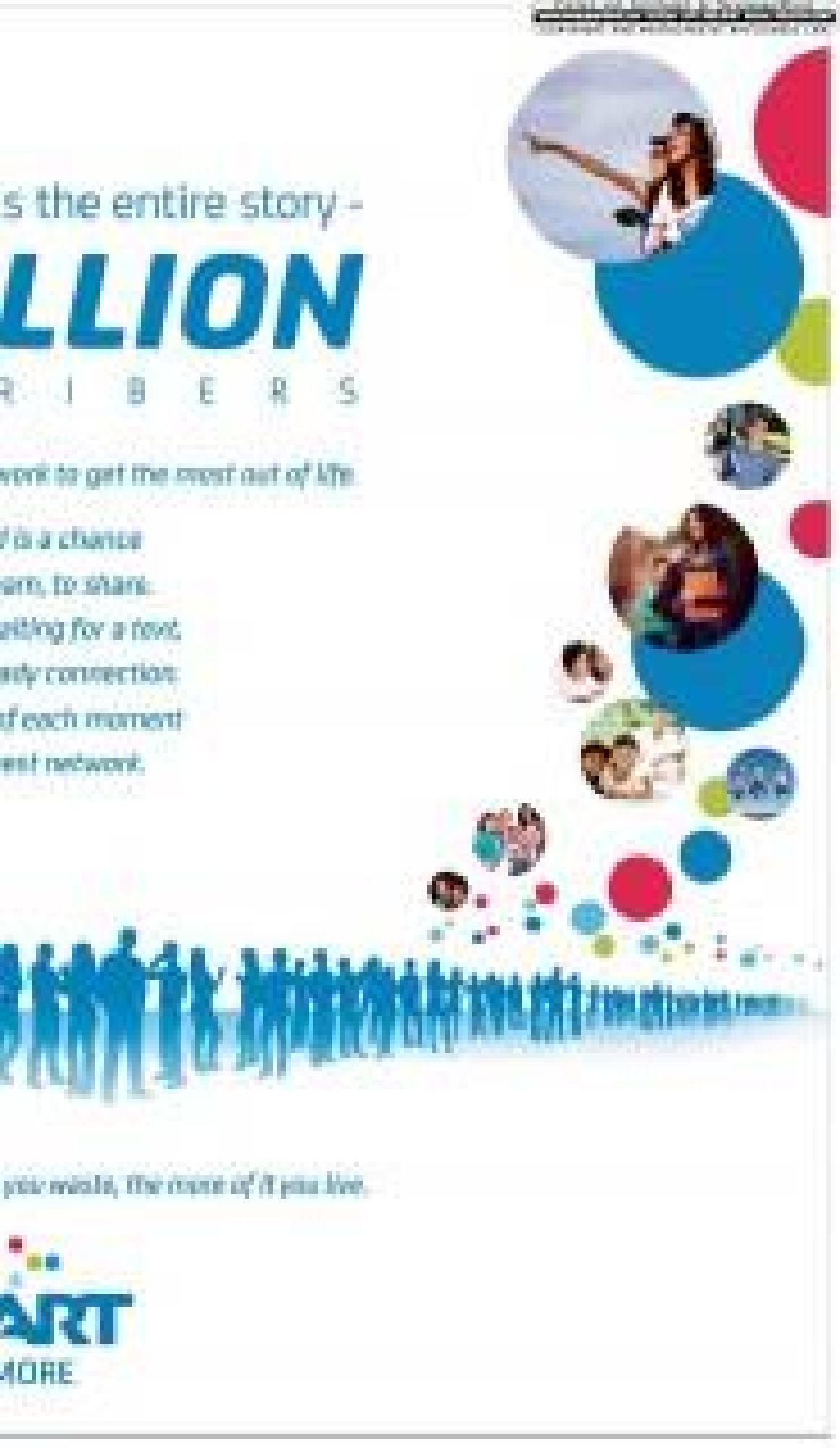

you waste, the more of it you live.

ART

MORE.

How shoe-shopaholic Toni Gonzaga gets the best deal

From page C1

suits, heels, shoes and cushion products.

"Yeah, all opportunities, nakaupo ang babae ngayon! (Times are hard!)," she said, laughing. "Everyone can buy more shoes."

While the TV and movie personality confesses her clothes closet is too full (she has 10, and 40 shoes), she is more than excited about these celebrities and platforms because they highlight her long legs.

"I am not particular about clothing brands. As long I am comfortable and confident in them, I wear them, but I prefer... silky but cozy shoes," she said. "Iniiwasa naghuhuta ako (I try to avoid sweating)."

She also said she always capitalizes on cozy socks.

The 26-year-old celebrity's trusted and sharply legs especially look good on Christian Louboutins and other designer shoes, which she scours on shopping sites www.net-a-porter.com and www.luisaviaroma.com.

Online shopping is convenient and practical, she said, especially with her hectic schedule. She hosts the "Pinoy Big Brother" reality show and "The Buzz" celebrity talk show on ABS-CBN2. Online shopping, too, is more convenient with her Samsung Galaxy Tablet.

Visit www.samsung.com.ph.

SAMSUNG mobile product marketing group head Coco Domingo, endorser Toni Gonzaga and product manager for boosty-phones Mark Go

SAMSUNG Chatty Dubs Duo ($69) lets you to use two SIM cards, browse the Internet and download free apps on the Android Market.

Rockwell Tent summer fair

ROCKWELL TENT presents "Great Expectations: Things to Travel, Treats to Shop," a summer fashion and travel fair ringing with Holiday Cheer and tempting accessories, travel essentials and summer wear, even from Cebile Tours offers online reservations for tour packages. Limited promos from the Bellevue Island Resort Manila Hyatt, Discovery Shores Boracay, Discovery Country Subic Digos, and Discovery Suites Ortigas are up for grabs. Pacific Blue Cruises also offers advance for pioneering adventurers to become the first cruise journey of the new luxury cruise line. Visit www.facebook.com/powerplantmall.

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Visit www.skybroadband.ph, or call (02)8888 to get the 15-day free trial.

Eton Centris shows

Music and dance rule Centris Walk as Eton Centris this March. Instructors from Sofit

Zone will transform the busier park into a fitness activity through Zumba sessions. Sessions are every Friday, 6 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. Also performing at Centris are the Buddies, who will perform their signature dance-capable tunes, in "Re-Introducing...Just Dance," at Bulwagan of March at 7 p.m.

For The Arts season 2, Centris Walk will host one of its new occasional flights in its window-seats and environment at noon from 8:30–8:30 p.m. on March 31. Vis-

Entries should be sent to call or call 7108833.

New AHRM officers

Two members of The Crowings Group, Atty. B. Inserto and Angel S. Blanco, were recently elected as officers of the Association of Human Resources Managers (AHRM). It is a group of 48 members from hotels, resorts, restaurants, hospitality institutions and other tourism-related establishments in the Philippines. Inserto, The Crowings Group HR director, was re-elected as treasurer for 2012-2014. Blanco, Asian School of Hospitality Arts deputy was declared board director and chairperson. The seven members of PAHRM president Arthur Rivera, vice president Abraham Alcaraz, VP Anita Alip, secretary Rosemarie Geronimo, PRO Jose Manuel and executive secretary Alex.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

Graffiti, Olympics, summer-inspired timepieces

SWATCH recently launched its latest collections in Salcedo Village, Peninsula Manila.

Guests here collaborated with SAT, a famous French graffiti artist for a timepiece called Pub O'clock.

The Swatch Petronicol collection, meanwhile, is inspired by old dictionaries in black and white graphic designs.

The Chrono Golden Book Swatch watches are in the way popular oversized fashion styles. And, just in time for the

Dreaming big and running strong

THERE ARE challenges in life that once met, transforms us into more fulfilled and complete beings. One such task is running a full, 42K marathon.

Today, around 500 brave and prepared runners are taking out such time off their busier lot. The TBR Dream Marathon at Subic should just be finishing, or many of you are reading this with your morning coffee.

Most of the 500 intrepid runners have trained for over six months for today's challenge, and I am sure they have myriad reasons to tell about their journeys.

TESSA! *Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

TBR, of course, stands for The Bull Runner, and founder **Jaymie Reuters** was overwhelmed with the turnout at the huge TBR send-off party for this year's batch held at the Bonifacio Hall in the Unilab Compound. The send-off included inspirational talks from TBR Dream Team members **Jim Ludbury**, **Neville Mamaril**, an running coach **Liri Dandrea**, and Anyone **Boy Sazara**, a TBR Dream participant, and I hosted the event, rubbing off over 50

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TAGUIG City Mayor Lani Cayetano, Gov. Pia Cayetano, triathlete Vicky Dloniglao-Concepcion, national triathlon coach Melvin Fuerte

Dreaming big and running strong

From page D1

BIRTHDAY girl Lani Jacquinot, president Sandy Bonnevalet and loving husband Philip

THE MALL Runner Dream Marathoners 2013 at the send-off party in Uptown Compound

INTERNATIONAL fashion designer Jojo Mateo (and jeweler designer Arnel Pepa at Manila Fame.

ASIAN Traveler publisher Gabby Reis Cruz, creative consultant and photographer Alan Bautista

METRO Cruise Furniture family, Jess and Myrna Bitsio, Sea Persona, Alan Bitsio

SPEEDO Pids: "Vandoo Mutual, Red Kimono's Harmony Dargent and Katherine Tan

BUFF Lazada Dealer School CDO Angelo Lazada, triathletes Erika Chiongbian Concepcion (second from right), Speedo Pids.' Anna and Natalie Mutuc

STYLISH furniture designer Daphne Dantis-Perez (center) and parents Rosa and Col. Dalio Dizon

THE COUNTRY'S swimming champions in Speedo Fastskin3 Racing System

SPEEDO Pids.' marketing manager Elizabeth Lim, sales and marketing manager Marleen Valentino, marketing communications officer Edelyn Tanlim, champion athletes Kendrick Ng, Nikko Huelgas and Charlie Walker

SWIMMING champions, UAAP Season 74 MVP and Slot butterfly category record holder Celina Gonzales, UAAP 10m-fr women category record holder Jasmine Ong, UAAP Season 74 rookie of the year Kim Ly, Philippine 100m freestyle category record holder Charlie Walker and PRISCAA 100m breaststroke category record holder Coco Gisolfo

PHILIPPINE Swimming Inc. president Mark Joseph, Speedo Pids. president Chandra Mateo, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr., Speedo Philippines' VP for operations Manish Makkar

JOBY Belmonte, Sea Princess

JSE LAMP Homecoming committees chair Wing Reyeses and benchmate Jose Saet Mike Dolores

MORE D1 Bull Runner Dream Marathoners

ASIAN Traveler editor Rons Jorge, model Kaily Pina, copyright Sea Princess, PR consultant Sonny Ko

TOP dream team, Jun Cruz, Noelle Mercado, Janice Villanueva, Jazmin Pecaro, Hazel Jacob, Jun Lalbarry, Lin Gervacio

CHEERLEADING coach Lin Cervalles and wife Ang (left), Sea Princess, TBR runner Edel Samson

S&S Princess and fave accessories designer Duane Groupes of Cebu

Triathlon

Timex is one of the biggest supporters of sports in our country. For the upcoming Ironman 70.3 triathlon in Cebu, it's once again sponsoring Timex Team Fiddler, Gwenda Pagador-gain, Timex marketing manager, has just e-mailed us our race designs and my bubble bursts, too Reyes and I are already excited for the event.

Of course, what excites me are the training and outfit possibilities that Ironman affords me to come up with. This year I am doing the bike leg (and not of the run leg, as my mom jokes), brother-in-law Bobbi Valdez is competing in Cebu. Bike Tenet's Gwyn Lamorena has promised to get me to Lance Armstrong speed from now to August. Our eldest Bryan has moved home from working in Singapore and will do the 21.1 run.

Details, concerns as ever, is our nemesis. He is a Speedo fanatic and made sure to attend the 2012 Spring/Summer Collection fashion show of the iconic swimwear maker, held amid the high rises of Bonifacio Global City. The new High Street Central was awash in sexy bodies boldly parading Speedo's Fastskin3 racing system.

The annual Speedo fashion show is becoming a must-attend event. This year, top Filipino and international models joined Speedo's stable of athletes, the super young Justin Daniel Juntes and national triathlete Nikko Huelgas, in personal fitness regimens, ranging from Pilates to Pole to Swiss Fitness to Cross-Fusion, the latter a good prelude to the London Olympics.

Manish Makkar, country head of Speedo, welcomed guests such as Mike Bell of the Strickland Group, and Speedo International execs Michael O'Donnell, Barry Halpenny and Harry Singh Sett. Pia Cayetano and Tapsilog Mayor Lani Cayetano also graced the event.

Accessories

Pure swimming combo, we move to another favorite topic, fashion accessories. Cebu serious-y design librarian Dionigue is in town to exhibit her designs at The Manila Store. At the event, I bumped into international designer Jesse Mateo who, by special collaboration with the organizers, has put up an exhibit of her fashion jewelry.

Mateo is one of the highlights of the Manila Store at SM, as well as the ongoing Pinoy Fabrik Exhibit at the World Trade Center. At the opening of Pinoy Fabrik, founder Joseph Ang welcomed the distinguished guests including stylish Daphne Dantis-Perez, who has a bunch of her lovely furniture.

Another recent event was the launch of Asian Traveler Magazine, which featured the best of the country's tourist destinations. The editor-in-chief for the cover, which was taken by master photographer Ellen Ramirez at Fort Santiago, fashion designer Rita Sandico-Ong also dressed model Kelly Misa for a fashion spread featuring cool summer swimwear.

The launch at Pinoy was a tourism-focused event, with many top resort and hospitality personalities gracing the party. The buzz at the event was all about the soon-to-open casinos at Pagcor's Entertainment City in Manila Bay. The opening of the first two casinos will only be a game changer for Philippine tourism.

Triple A award

In closing, I would like to greet my son and only niece Sandy Bamsaddler a very happy birthday. She recently garnered the AIM Alumni Achievement Award, known as the Triple A award, which is only given to alums who have done exceptionally well in the field of business. The award was presented by Amili Lapuz, AIM alumni and Ateneo Secretary of Education.

AIM recently held its Alumni Homecoming, "Ready AIM Fire," hosted by MHM '92. I hosted the event together with Mike Tobias, AIM alum and ace of TV5's AIOTV TV or the MBC'ers.

The theme of the night was "fire," symbolizing power and dominance, which was evident from the names and faces of the more than 500 AIM alums in attendance. Flying in from all over the world, My ex-boss ex-TV5's "Kapamilya Makeover Henin Edition" Joby Belmonte and his team did an exceptional job in delivering the best AIM homecoming ever!

MHM '93 topped off the event with a donation of a million pesos to the AIM Alumni Leadership foundation.

That's the sort of donation that shows the quality of the AIM graduates and what they have achieved. This is not to send the AIM alumni from above to more great challenges in life, and fulfill and complete them.

Follow @Rons on Twitter or email her at sugarrons@inquirer.com.ph.

Give the Gift of Education this Valentines...

eStudyante

Ariel with the Freshness of Downy Passion and P&G Philippines' account partners teamed up to give a belated Valentines' month Gift of Education to children in the Philippines by building the tallest and widest laundry towers in stores around the country. Aside from cash prizes for the stores, cash contributions were made to Procter and Gamble's eStudyante program and chosen local public schools. eStudyante's vision is to give 1 million laptops to Filipino children by P&G's 100th Anniversary. Feel the love as Ariel with the Freshness of Downy Passion and its partners touch and improve the lives of children in the Philippines one tower at a time.

ZOREL corrales wins Season's Most Glam Loo-pierced waistline in heights contest.

DEREK Ramsay announces launch of London Olympics Swatch watches and a forthcoming issue of timepiece that will be the official London Olympics cop for golfers, sailors, Ramsay as local guide.

TEDDY BOY Lorcan, G. Trungi and Aiotta Gastanaga.

HENRY Zobel and Swatch brand ambassador Chen Tse.

FRENCH graffiti artist Full inspires Jeanne Zobel and granddaughters to get into the spirit.

Graffiti, Olympics . . .

CHRISTIAN Bautista and girlfriend Carla Dimaranan

From page D3

into July grand opening ceremonies, London Olympics branch activities as we...

The Swatch New Gent Lacquered Collection features 10 bright models, each one different from the next, while Lady Double Trio watches are in seven contrasts bright as it is.

The best moment of the launch was the Swatch drama gallows with the faces of the latest collection.

Venetian masquerade raises funds for Osmeña Boulevard renovation

A MASQUERADE ball to raise funds for the restoration and beautification of Cebu's Osmeña Boulevard was held by the Beautiful Cebu Movement Foundation (BCMF) at the ballroom of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. It will be hard for top in terms of grandeur and guest attended. About 1,000 attended.

It was all the brainchild of BCMF chairperson Margarita Salinkangan Young, who reunited with Margarita Lhuillier in co-host "My children, Jose," said Margarita, especially youngest daughter Jessica Young, who had designed the invitations and labels on the wine to actively bottled for the occasion.

Margarita cut Martin Young was instrumental in chairing the concept of a Venetian theme, complete with Grand movie revolving through the hotel's foyer. Jugglers in costume were performing there, and ladies in submissive Elizabethan-era hoop skirts glided about.

We were right behind Margarita as she arrived at the ball, radiantly acknowledging cheers, clad in a green by Gary Armitage, sporting a huge tiara necklace, and adhesive with a diamond necklace with an elevated pendant.

"A gift from my dear husband," she said, entertaining Gardens Young with an intense look.

CEBU CISU

Janice Picornell

He smiled broadly in response. "I'm a Mexican supporting lovely Grandin de Sousa, for Senator. "The wedding is on June 17, 2012. But this is Cebu," said Margarita.

Getting that share of the spotlight were eldest daughter Carla and her husband Chris Mckinnon who had come from Hong Kong a few days before with their beautiful daughter Bianca.

People milled around the evening area, sipping champagne, posing for photos, inspecting the items on the silent auction, choosing the giveaway masks at the registration counter, or just waiting in the dinner in the ballroom in total anticipation.

"In a little while," said Margie Lhuillier, wrapped in silver mesh at the entryway, having given her approval to each activity. "Everybody is excited, very excited. Judge Pelayo read the program with exuberant precision.

Acrobats started to perform all over the stage, pretty girls in chiffon and stretch gloves undressed between tables, and boisterous master Elliot the six. Master of ceremonies Vince Rosario made pertinent announcements, more like presiding everyone to move toward the various buffet tables.

VIP list

Seated with Cebu and Margarita Young were Margarite Lhuillier, Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia (in yards of white tulle), Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama, Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier, with wife Ichie Diaga Lhuillier, Bureau General of Fresco Michel Lhuillier, with wife Augustus Llamas Lhuillier, and Jocelyn Pecjonco.

Cebu viscount John Julienne described the audience as he pranced about playing the clarinet and pop tunes which sounded like Dixieland. Dining songs from "Phantom of the Opera" were Jackie Chang and Ralph Blanchette.

The evening's program was hosted by Bonjo Manotoc who asked Montpelier and Margarite to come on stage to give the event's rationale. "I told Mike Rama that if he was elected mayor I'd help realize this project," Margarita said.

"The second meeting last year," she added, explaining how she galvanized a group of volunteer ladies, among them assistant Jessie Javier, who designed the Osmeña Boulevard renovation project, from the Capitol Building to Parian Gymnasium, and all the way down-town to the junction of Imus-ciango Street.

Governor Garcia underscored the distance from the Capitol to Pasaje Osmeña, and says it's the BCMF that will complete the rest. That was the reason for the masquerade ball.

Entertainment per excellence was provided by top singers Philippe Marquez Cancio and Sharon Warners, who performed per boss.

Ryan Prince Valdez, who had come for the occasion with husband Dennis Valdez, was on hand to parade the auction of "dinners" with Mayor Mike Rama and Governor Garcia. Top bidder for both was Augustine Schau Jr.

Two days later the Young family had a big celebration at their Villa Margarita in Minglanilla. It was the baptismal of their first grandson, Montana Ryder V. McKinnon, and it was also Margarita's birthday, as well as the Young' wedding anniversary.

Lots of well-wishers attended, led by their dear friend, former President Joseph Estrada, who came with his family this past and getting their share of attention were Jaundelle Rama and Eddie Gullerrez, the latter strolling his student days at the Ateneo, Los Salesianos and Loyola.

A week afterward, and he needs a full move, on the same garden was the beautiful Cebu appreciation party. Memoria Abilar, who had been most active with the Masquerade Ball committee, collected over the names of those personnel will expend plaques.

Margarita and Margie had words of gratitude for all, and thanked above values they announced that total expenses for the two days totaled P 12 million, but funds raised were over P8 million. "Calculator!" they exclaimed. When they asked the rhetorical question, "Shall we have another ball next year?" there was a thunderous YES.

MARGUERITE Lhuillier, Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama, Margarita Salinkangan Young, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and Carlos Young

Peñafrancia movie to be shown in Toronto

HEAVEN'S Best Toronto, Canada, especially the Bicolanos, those and devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, will have a chance to view the film "Kaw ang Ing-ding," when it is shown there on March 24 and 25. The film involves around the religious conversion of a Spaniard and family through the intercession of Our Lady of Peñafrancia—"kin" to the Bicolanos.

Directed by Maribel Lim Abaya, the movie stars Ina Feleo, Marvin Agustin, Ariani Shaw, Simon Pedregon and Eddie Garcia.

Bernadette Dolha Ilac Marie, a registered immigration consultant in Ontario, will gather the Filipinos for the film showing and supervise the selling of tickets (+1(289)995-2546/+1(647)...).

Carmelita Dolha, who is based in San Francisco, is the licensee.

Her mother, Josefa Alvarez, wife de Dolha, 99, donated the $3,000 for the film screenings on March 24, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., at Silver Village Community Center, 3rd floor, 50 Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School in Toronto, Ontario, Canada's March 25, 2 and 8 p.m., at the Filipino Center of Toronto (Regal Hall), 209 Parliament St., Toronto.

Guest parents are Flora Dolha Jr., tel. 905.231.186; Rose Tecsidel, tel. 416.749.8918; and Bernadette Ilac Maria, tel. 905-2840242.

Beneficiaries

The movie "Kaw ang Ing-ding" was produced by the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres headed by Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, OP with the Marilou Diaz-de Abaya Film Institute and Star Cinema.

Beneficiaries of the movie are the Aberdeenian home Gemma with the "unwed home"), Nazareth Orionic, Dundas;

Here I am–loving again

YVETTE and Mike

YVETTE and Shawn

By Yvette Agyeiwa Dwingi
Contributor

As our date was coming to an end, he asked me the one question no man ever asked me since I started dating again: 'So, when will I see you again?'

FIRST OF all, this is a chapter in my life I do not expect everyone to understand and accept. It is, as I have said, my life. I've realised that, at this age, there is no magic timeline, no perfect things to say or do that can make everyone agree with you.

I think I've done what I could to be the embodiment of some personal principles, but I realised it does not matter in the end. What matters is that your life becomes—that it tends to happiness, fulfillment and joy. It is worth it to find that tinge of colour when you have spent most of your life in black and white.

At the mature age of 39 (I said, it was there), I decided to love someone so unconvincingly wonderful. I could have loved someone who could have broken my heart or could have eventually lost interest in me. But Mike never did any of those things.

His devotion to me was a blessing during those years. There was this magic, unspoken power who I might let me on my battlefield, gave me life, poured out his affection, gave me affection even when I thought I didn't deserve it. He never had reasons to break up or leave the relationship because we were always so constant and happy.

To this day, I am grateful for the time and space given to Mabel. Hearing him and vowing to spend the rest of my life with him was the least I could do, which we did right years after.

After our wedding day, we went on to have a healthy marriage, raised two lovely children, and immigrated to another country. What some people didn't know was that even before we were married, Mike had a congenital condition that would never improve despite all our efforts.

Being in the hospital every year was a normal thing for us, seeing him in pain meant I had to be the strong one and roll up every sleeve for the situation, I do not know how I held myself together, how I managed to live the moment and not live in it. Every year he didn't go to the hospital was a reason to be grateful.

I packed all negative thoughts as far back into my head. I didn't listen to doctors who gave me clear timelines and accurate expectations for the future. All their words just seemed like useless noise to me, as long as I saw Mike smiling and spending each day with me.

Physical pain

There, one horrible day, time just ran out for him, and there was nothing I could do about it. We had been married for nine years and eight months. I had known him since March 1997. He had been part of my life for 29 years, 4 months, and 22 days. Mike left our world 12 days after his 39th birthday.

My heart was broken.

Whenever I woke up, 31 months if he was in the bathroom, or making breakfast. Then I'd remember, and I would feel that agonising pain all over me. It astonished me that the pain left no physical, just as much as the emotional. It was so unbearable, despite my pain, I also had children who were also suffering.

Whenever someone asked me what my grief experience was like, I'd say it was like I was consumed with a gray fog, and I never felt comfortable around me. Everyone else seemed like stock characters of a play, and I did not belong in it. I lived each day with fear, afraid that I'd fall apart if I took the train and experienced him. I was afraid that I couldn't do the groceries on me.

Back then I wept, and it didn't matter if I was working at my desk or doing chores at home. Each day was painful, and for a while, life had no meaning for me.

I wanted justice for a time it would be easier. Each day, I woke up and hoped it would be that particular day. I had accepted that I will always miss him, but I didn't want the pain. Grief is a part of me that I struggled with the process of healing, knowing that I needed to be better so I could help my kids cope better. It was a long way. Time stretched like a rubber ready road.

When I was in the early stages of my grief, I promised myself I'd grieve openly, if that was what it took to heal myself to healing. I would mourn losing and feel all the pain I needed to feel, but also honour Mike's memory by taking steps forward. I loved him most when he reminded me there was so much to do in my life, how he prodded me to do things outside of his comfort zone.

This great man would be most proud of me if I continued our lives the way he would have wanted. He would be the first to encourage, and he "must-do" list kept mounting and expressed my regrets on the days leading up to his passing in that day.

Taking charge

Six months after, I just felt ready to meet other men and I found reasons to think about my future. I knew Mike was helping me, and it emboldened me to be the responsible parent for my kids. I learned how to be an assertive, independent lady, accept my situation with some serenity. It almost felt miraculous. The cliche "never decide the human spirit" was true, after all. I cautioned to surprise myself as early year progressed.

At the right time, I realised my heart was still capable of loving. Mike was the only man I had known since I was 19, and he always reminded me how sad it was that I never was with anyone else but him. I thought he was being selfish to think of such things. I was happy in that time, so I didn't give whenever he reminded those comments.

Once again, I longed for romance, and I felt guilty for it. At my age, I knew it wouldn't be easy. Suddenly, I was saddled with the oddities of online dating and now my age who previewed 20-somethings. It all seemed bizarre and daunting. I was 41 years old, but I felt like I felt it would all fall into place at the right time and with the right person.

After several interesting dates with men I'd met in my city, I started to develop the sense of what I was looking for in dating. I rejected flirts, kind not to wait for the phone, and not get too emotionally involved. It is the strongest thing to do for someone who has never been for dinner, by any mean, but I eventually figured it out. I'm a little too in learning about things, but I had to learn to communicate in this complex world of dating.

My son once asked me, "Mom, are you dating?" when he saw me getting ready for a date. I replied, "Yes, is that okay?" He nodded, then asked, "Are you finding someone to replace Dad?" Immediately I replied, "No, you already had a Dad, but I just need to find someone to care about, and maybe someone who could be your friend someday." He was content with my answer, and seemed to move on.

When one had a father who was in "larger than life" as Mike was, it is not that he any man to take his place. That new person wouldn't have to, which I explained to my son, and I was fair enough to be in our lives, he will be a new addition to our family. There are no rules or labels needed. At that very least, he will be another person for us to love.

Age gap

Then, Shawn came into my life. He agreed to meet at a coffee shop, just for coffee. I took note of our age gap (11 years), admitted to myself that it might be a deal-breaker, and I was fine with all that. A cup of coffee progressed into dinner, then a long talk that almost made me lose track of time. He was intelligent, interactive, considerate, unpretentiously not because himself in some ways and I was fine with my new life and hectic schedule. I appreciated that he was a no-frills kind of guy.

As our date was coming to an end, he asked me the one question no man ever asked me since I started dating again: "So, when will I see you again?" It took me by surprise that I had decide had to start thinking of another available day! I went home without the typical text-time after my dates and slept well. I knew we were seeing each other again.

I always felt that the ones I'd dated were quite put off by my past. It's not easy to be the new man in a widow's life. The man just only had to love with me divided attention and busy life, but he also had to accept that part of me still always love Mike. The next man had to be very accommodative with all that.

Shawn accepted all these things with such ease, it was amazing. When I brought him to my house for dinner with the kids, I warned him, "I know it's weird, but you will see Mike's pictures everywhere. They will be in every room long as the kids wear them there." He replied, "Of course," and it was a sincere response. It really didn't bother him. It gave me comfort to know I didn't have to avoid the sensitive topic with him.

Shawn was no different from Mike, and I appreciated that. It was a humble thing that I sought out someone who had other qualities to bring into a relationship. Shawn was never married and was an only child. He has limited his life with quiet confidence and this ability to climb things through sensibly. Because he was used to being alone, he was never dominating of my time, but hoped we could spend a few hours a week.

He was a good man, and I knew on the fourth date to say bye he was to this for the long haul. I've known other single women who took years before they found the right man, and it just took me four months after I met Shawn to realise that he was the one.

New man

This new man in my life provide me forward, and there are no more changes in my life. He gave himself selfless when I have issues with my children. He loves me unconditionally and never gives me a reason to worry about anything. When prompted by my friends, he doesn't hesitate to talk about his retirement plans, always saying the word "we." He makes me feel alive again.

Emily J. Hancock

EMILY'S POST

DEAR EMILY:

I was a victim of date rape in college when I was 17 years old. I was so drunk I don't even remember what happened. I told a few friends, but none who answered me the whole evening was the married brother of my close mate. He told my pregnancy from my parents. I asked to go to the province of my mother so that could visit with my favorite aunt and "get to know life." I said, I was a problem child, and they were only too glad to let me go. We're five siblings. I am the only girl and the most spoiled.

My aunt was very cautious of me at the beginning, but soon became my friend. When I gave birth, she "adopted" my daughter, who she said was the child of her maid. I came back to Manila after a year and a half. I finished my college with honors and later worked for a multinational company.

I am now 30 years old and I am a successful company executive. Friends are confused if not puzzled at how a successful woman like my should refuse to go on dates or even stand to entertain males within or outside the company. Many think I am a lesbian and I never deny any efforts to dispel their notions.

My child is now with me and just finished her schooling. Everyone thinks she is the kid of the "maid" who had the good luck of being "adopted" by me. Nobody still knows about my secret child except my aunt, and her family and I would rather not tell me unless I gave birth.

But six months ago, I met the country manager of another multinational company who is the first man I've been attracted to in 20+ years. From our quiet conversations, he told me how paranoid he has become of women he's been meeting in this country. Because most of them just want to use him for their own ambitions.

That got the ladies on my emotions scrambling to a halt. I suddenly didn't feel comfortable with him anymore. With all my past secretly bound me and not give me any break. Finding the love that is just for me?

Who cares what this man thinks about the other females he has met? That's his problem, not mine. You have your own and you have those you he is talking about.

That goes for the mentality of your other "friends" who are questioning your sexuality. What do they care about what you do in private, and what is it to them? Still knowing your gender preferences and boundaries that matter?

Accept the fact that your past will never be deleted from your life. You've become what you are now because of your doing. As one author said in her daughter, "Life is not about what happens to you, but what you do with what happens to you!" You are everything right! That you thought you were best for you.

As to you finding another love, let him surprise you. Just refrain from rushing around and looking for it. What will be, will be.

From the looks of it, you've gotten yourself into one helluva cake already. Enjoy the rest of it!

E-mail: emilyjhancock@magnetmail.com.ph or emilyhancock@gmail.com—subject: Ephesus

5 ways to conquer your fears

Trust your kind inner voice and not the bully within

I USED to be such a scaredy-cat. I suppose it came from my overprotected upbringing. I won't bore my parents here. They were only doing what they thought was in the best interest of their child.

Presumably, as a result, the fearfulness lingered even into my adulthood. Then, life brought on challenges, disappointments and losses one after the other, and slowly I found the time, falling away.

Realising and accepting that many things are not in our control was the first step to conquering many of the things I used to be afraid of. Keeping an open but not reckless attitude of believing that all things and events have their reasons, believed me, too—that nothing is by chance, and that I am where I am if there are truly not meant to be.

Sounds romantic, but true. All things come into fruition in the time, that's why it's also important to be discerning.

Here are some ways that clinical psychologist and author Joyce Meyer talks in Capsa, who also blogs at http://joycemeyer.com, suggests we practice when faced with our fears.

Act, not respond

First is to act, rather than respond. Capsa says that we have been so used to responding to our environment that it's always hard to take its new conditions. We are more comfortable with discomfort, whether it be from our environment or from our emotions.

She says, "We need to stop feeling the discomfort, but by trusting your thing to be different than what it is, we perpetuate it. If you can't change your situation, ignore it, get used to it, or think about someone worse off than you. Bring trouble with how things will all in how someone is a problem make his coping video."

Just chill

Second, she suggests, "Trust about only what you need to." And even then, point doesn't really help much. Capsa says that things usually can't be a fun exercise to think out to life, and you will be better off being in control of what you can, and leaving the rest. Just off with the belief that you will never really be able to control everything. Unless it's a life and death situation, just chill and tell yourself: "It's okay, even matter a month, you find now?"

Think positive

Third, keep a positive outlook. She says, "Believe wholeheartedly that things will work out, because there's no reason they shouldn't. I mean it. To something calmly, do something quickly, but do something. Be out at ease in the face of danger." No matter what, your safety depends on your ability to be aware and calm, and you will have enough energy to act, even if you're scared."

For me, believing that God is the one in control of everything has helped me a lot. Knowing that I will never find myself in a pit for deep where He does not deeper for Him, also helped calm me.

Seek out positive people

Capsa's fourth suggestion is tough, especially if you do not have an abundance of them. Listen only to positive people.

I always like to say, surround your self with positivity and people who believe in your dreams. Pragmatists, optimists, dreamers and inspirers are not only life, but it's people who do not to run on life's life reasons that help us all through the toughest times. The one who affirms you realistically, and says, "You've been to them, I'm sure you can handle that," or reminds you that you've been in a worse-case scenario before and survived it. All things point, " to the one you need to be with who is not fabulous online.

Know thyself

Lastly, look within. Seriously. Now, this is tough. But if you are able to do this, you will be able to overcome whatever you are fearful of, or what pains you, or prevents you from taking the next step—then overcoming your fear becomes easier.

It's never easy to ask ourselves the hard questions because the answers might not always be those we want to hear. We would rather just move down under the rug. In extreme cases, we medicate or get addicted—to drugs, alcohol, one-night. On this level, emotional eating, explosive anger or displays of emotion, and even suicide are options. Nothing, all of which are destructive behaviors.

However, time over time times comes out the bully within. Be patient with yourself, take time out to listen, there are on the guidance given you.

E-mail the author at sallyhabana@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @sallyhabana.

She's unable to find love due to a secret past

Dear Abby

Why I *cried* at my son's *wedding*

By Joy L. Bonnaddie
Contributor

IT IS OFTEN said that your children will always surprise you, and I only realized how true it was when my second son, Jason, married the love of his life, Nikki Bonnaddie. It truly was a wedding of surprises.

From the moment they got engaged (on almost-Xmas Eve-eve, Jason, in his excitement and nervousness, had forgotten the ring in the car), Jason and Nikki took the helm and started to plan a unique and unforgettable wedding, one that everyone would remember, starting with the date.

As they had gotten officially engaged in December 2010, they immediately committed to an easy November 11, 2011 (11.11.11) as their wedding day despite the intense competition, they unanimously got Holmes the Seven Parish and the Hong Country Club.

While other couples typically choose colors as the unifying theme for their wedding, Jason and Nikki both passionate architects, revealed that the couple was their inspiration. There were triangles everywhere—the logo they made for their wedding, the confetti that fell at the end of their have-the-time rides, the gowns of the bridesmaids, the table they used at the reception, and the unique steel bouquets that Nikki carried down the aisle.

They also wanted a happy, fun vibe, and requested all the guests to wear colorful outfits. Everyone in the entourage had bright turquoise gowns for the girls and matching tux for the boys. I chose a teal pink and orange gown (color, I borrowed from the "Mommy Mia" wedding venue) and I thank Miss Santiyan who did both me and my fellow Angel's gowns, courtesy of the couple, who refused to let us pay for anything.

Although they kept us in the loop about their plans (and progress), Jason and Nikki carefully and efficiently executed all their ideas into a concrete plan. It was almost like they were designing and building an entire architectural project from the paper to the last nail and pebble. Mr. hardly had to lend a hand because they were accomplishing so many things on their wedding to-do list on their own!

As each day passed and the wedding date loomed closer and closer, the lovebirds showed no signs of stress. Each time I discreetly checked on the wedding preparations, they would surprise me with how much was already done. Personalized shoot cleat favors from said out. Food tasting done. Videographers and photographers booked. They even put up their own wedding website to keep all their guests informed. How efficient can they be? Before I knew it, it was time to walk my second son down the aisle.

Pleasant surprises

Like I said, the wedding and the reception was full of pleasant surprises. It started with my grandson Adrian Hugo, the ring bearer, shocking us by walking down the aisle all on his own safely a big smile on his face, without any goddesses from us. (He was 1 ½ years old.)

After confidently declaring that he wasn't going to cry, tears fell down Jason's cheeks when he saw Nikki walking to him. At the reception, the whole extravaganza was opened by Jason in pink as they entered the ballroom. Shocked as we all were, we all tried to shake our groove things as we stepped in.

In his speech, the best man, my older son Justin, revealed a hidden talent we had no idea he possessed: body in their adolescence, where he and Jason shared a cramped king bedroom. As you left, by an exchange program to Japan. Jason even had a surprise for his new wife: a rendition of "Into the Last Dance for Me" (complete with dance moves). And finally, instead of regular dancing shoes, option was all about staging, as Jason and Nikki had prepared a rockstyle experience for all the guests.

My best surprise was during the wedding ceremony itself. Before Jason kissed his bride, he and Nikki stepped up to the microphone and declared that they had messages for their parents. Josh handed Jason his trusty iPad and, from there, we saw, and a touching note to wanted for me and my husband, Adrian.

A trembling is supposed to be the big day for the bride and groom, and usually the pair can have a quick moment during the reception where they give a speech. But here we were in church, and my son and my new daughter were sharing their spotlight with us, the parents.

I felt deeply moved and honored as I heard Jason say "Together, you are the best couple I have ever witnessed grow together. The nice of you have taught me important values that will continue to be my guiding principles in the new family that I am forming today."

Of course, it was no surprise that I cried.

HONGKUP: Bonnaddie: Dr. Adrian Bonnaddie, Joy Bonnaddie, Jason Bonnaddie, Joseph Adrian Bonnaddie, Jose Chris Bonnaddie and Jaira Bonnaddie

THE BRIDE with her parents Marcelo "Jason" Bascon and Jaqui Dayrit-Bascon, and sister Christel Marie Bascon

WITH the author's friends from UP: Joy and lawyer Irene Guevarra, Bing Borrayo, Maersin Prodigalidad-Flores, Del Ferrer, Joy and Adrian Bonnaddie, Diane and Art Quimsing, with the bride and the groom

ARRIVAL architect Bobbie Maniwan with Nikki and Jason Bonnaddie

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ "Lahat ng may tattoo, addict" /F1

The Pinoy chips that conquered China

One of the most interesting–and proud-to-be-Filipino–stories of the past two decades is told in Shanghai

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN A GENTRIFIED section of Shanghai, we were about to begin our tour of the restored 1930s house—now a living museum open to the public—when Carlson Chan copied one of the artifacts on display. It was a wooden chamber pot. He pointed it out to us. We gathered around it, curious about this remnant of China's pre-Communist past.

"The neighbor of our factory at that time was still using something similar to this," he said, referring to the early '90s. "Our neighbor would unload its contents and use it as fertilizer."

"Really?" we said, almost in disbelief. "That must have been quite a stink. And in the '90s?"

"Yes, as recent as that," he replied.

Carlson was trying to make a point on how Shanghai was a totally different world as recently as the '90s, so vastly removed from the cosmopolitan and utterly sophisticated Shanghai that the world is racing to inhabit and do business in today.

This renowned metropolis, popular destination in Shanghai known as Xintiandi, now has chic boutiques (e.g. Shanghai Tang) and restaurants (e.g. Whitegrass). The house we just toured had been reconstructed to typify the Shikumen architecture of the early 20th-century Shanghai.

Loosely translated, Shikumen refers to a "stone gate," which was what homes in the '20s and '30s had in Shanghai. Beyond the stone gate was a big home with a courtyard, a foyer and living areas, bedrooms, kitchen, to accommodate either a big clan or rows of families living in a row of houses (also known as longtang) in Shanghai, including artists.

It reminded me of my own "Shanxiah" homes in the turn of the century Like ours, the Shikumen also has a mezzanine room—a room in the landing between two flights of stairs—which a transient, usually a struggling artist, could rent. It was in a Shikumen that many of Shanghai's famous writers once lived.

Our imagination, however, was stirred not only by the big rooms (perhaps Shanghai has to a more static setting, by the living and work conditions Carlson's family and their staff must have had to contend with when they started their watch band business in 1993, when China had just opened its door to foreign investors.

To us, that vintage chamber pot said it all. It became a graphic representation of the festering tension the Chans went into, and from there, we could only appreciate the lonely stuff such an entrepreneurial family is made of.

Just an hour earlier, over dinner, the family patriarch, Carlos Chan, recalled...with some coaxing from us, because this man apparently doesn't like to talk about himself—how, in those early years, he would take many flights to Shanghai to start up his business.

The bloodshed at Tiananmen Square was still fresh in the world's mind, and few businessmen dared venture out into China. Chan was among the few. And with a little

THE PINOY CHIPS E2

The Pinoy chips that conquered China

From page E1

In casino time to the nostalgia, he recalled how he had preferred daytime flights because he feared an evening landing in Shanghai airport in the dark night. The conditions in China were that crude and backward.

It was as if, when nobody was looking and when only a few dared, Carlos Chan saw the rise (an underestimated) market that would be China. And he has always loved Shanghai.

Actually Carlos Chan had been visiting Fujian, his ancestors' homeland, and Shanghai since the '80s, seeking for the doors to open and establishing contacts with local officials and "businessmen" (if you could call the unofficial capitalists, that, in the hamlet of Communism).

Taking the cue

When Deng Xiao Ping began distributing economic reforms and when Shanghai established liberal policies in ways that would be accommodating to foreign investors, Chan took the cue, started bringing in the snack foods produced by his factory in the Philippines, and took over a state-owned factory and its 500 employees.

He entered into what was considered then as a "cooperative venture"—with him as investor, and China providing the place and employees, his determined and people-minded wife he as manufacturer and sell snack foods to the Chinese market that he asked his eldest son Carlson to live in Shanghai to help set up the factory. Carlson lived and worked in Shanghai for 10 years; he married back in Manila only a few years ago.

Carlson would be followed by Chan's younger sons Larry and Archie. Larry enrolled here, after high school graduation, and working for a Management Engineering degree at the Ateneo de Manila University for two years already sold by his father—"We're going to Shanghai."

Today, Oishi, the snack food brand of the Chuas, is one of the biggest food brands in China, where it is also known as Ouzhihao (in which means "up and good"). It has 14 factories in 10 provinces in China, including one that's at the border of Kazakhstan. Its main factory is on 17 hectares up east in Shanghai, still smaller than Oishi's 40-hectare center in Cavite.

Oishi is also in Vietnam, where it is the market leader, in Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia—the latter two since 2006—in India since 2011, and Cambodia in 2012.

That a Chinese-Filipino firm is a market leader in the world's ultimate marketplace that is China isn't so well-known. Today Oishi is also in Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Cambodia since 2012.

CARLOS CHAN (second from right) with his children, from left, Larry, Archie and Grace

LARRY CHAN: "Today's industry faces the challenge of creativity."

OISHI has become a global lifestyle brand with various variants, from the kiddie-favorite crackers to the innovative Marty's vegetable chicharon.

UNDER the Oishi coffee-in-a-jungle program, Lolina Chikthai from Bohol performed in Shanghai.

FILIPINO EXPERTISE is tapped in Oishi research & development in China; Carmela Bugal, Mila and Renalen Ortiz

Carlson, a diehard romantic (his name rate the capital of Hollywood), Chinese and Filipino, who has studied a bit more indepth, is obviously into the arts and letters, but nonetheless could pursue business goals with acute discipline. Archie is into food and technology. Larry is into the intellectual issues.

The daughters Kenjie and Sherry are into other facets of the business, such as marketing and communication. The youngest son, Orion, is president of Contempora Foods, Inc. in the Philippines. Isn't it obvious how the first letters of the names of his children are taken from the father's name?

Now does a father like Mansel make his children work for him, or, as everyone knows, a business empire isn't necessarily carried through generations? "I gave them responsibilities," said Carlos, making it sound so easy.

Archie added how their father made it a point not to bring them to his hotels and to show them how it is done in the world. "When you see properly compensated and you enjoy what you're doing, it's not hard to stay in the family business," he said.

And it helped, Larry said, that they grew up "with a culture always reserved for snack foods."

Carlson was more candid. "Honestly, it never crossed our minds to work somebody else but in the family business, perhaps because we really found it fulfilling."

The younger Chuas was more specific: "Most likely because it's quite distance. There's always something going on somewhere, like today it's Vietnam or Myanmar."

Oishi the global brand is the child, quite literally, of Lucmayen Gangcan, the great-Waisil that Hokkien started by the parents of Carlos. In 1916, Chan Lih, a Chinese migrant from Fujian (he was 14 when he migrated long before Carlos' migration), and his wife See Ying opened a repackaging business they would call "Lucmayen" (Seeds of Grace, in Filipino).

They bought products such as coffee and starch from wholesalers, and repackaged them to store for customers, who had just survived the war. In time, Lucmayen would grow to become a household brand for groceries.

Today, the Oishi brand is under the um-

FOR PHOTO CLIPS, E3

Feel-good story

That the brand has its origins in the Philippines and that it is owned by a Chinese-Filipino is a source of pride. Oishi is not only a success story it is also a feel-good story.

And we call on Chan, who is now 72 years old and claims he's happily retired, makes it sound as if his has been the most casual in the world.

"Since living," he said over our dinner at Dchanghua's Last Saturday. "We just got lucky."

Perhaps, but luck is just one of the brush strokes in this interesting portrait.

You don't have to be an MBA holder to see that Carlos Chan's master stroke is his strong gut feel—then, and the courage to take a risk. To penetrate the state-controlled (in the '90s) Chinese market, Chan invested $0.5 million in a factory and food technology in China.

"Even if China was poor then, surely the poor could afford even 50 cents or 1 yuan for snack food, I thought," Carlos Chan recalled his optimism about the market.

"No one say we exported our it and D (research and development) and our snack food manufacturing experience to China, from the Philippines," recalled Larry (who's now the chairman of the company Carlos Chan is chairman emeritus.)

His advancement in product development would also include the "seaweed" meal or crushing at the snack food factory.

At the outset, apart from the capital and technology, Oishi had a competitive edge over other Filipino firms (in snack food, particularly): Using to clinch the Chinese market. "Possible to sin if your there to live here," Carlos Chan said, pointing to his own passed around our dinner table.

Now Carlson, Larry and Archie have themselves in Shanghai—and worked in hand, if not hardly, than the rest of the company staff and workers. At one point or another, they would live in the company dormitories, share staff houses, and attended the whole gamut of the business, from production to distribution and delivery. (Larry and Archie continue to be based in Shanghai, with their respective families.)

On our tour of the dry goods market, the sight of mascarpone triggered something in Carlson. With a relationship more of wonder and a bit of nostalgia, he recalibrated how, in their start-up days, such a small mascarpone could lend up to 40 cartons of Oishi snack food (for delivery) to the market.

Listening to him, one imagined the physical transport of snack foods to the countless dry goods markets and sari-sari stores in Shanghai, Sudmonetary beginnings, indeed. Now the Oishi network has more than 500 distributors and 150 direct retail customers all over China.

Chan had his first entry on investment in 1988, or only a year after he made the investment.

Willy Works

A tour of the Oishi plant in Shanghai, with the iconic logo of the Oishi bird greeting you everywhere, was like a trip to a Willy Wonka chocolate factory, like in the movie—a rich multi-sensory experience. Each product station, from the prawn crackers to the potato fries and candies, had its own assembly line or production method, from the raw ingredients to the packaging.

Archie Chan, the second eldest son who studied from Architecture at UST to Engineering degree at De La Salle, is on top of R&D, and inherently loves machines. His father knew he was a natural choice to head production and product development. He touched up around the various assembly lines, steaming and testing to hold the "perfect" that would be processed into prawn crackers, or the potato sticks going through the machine that squeezes out the fats, or the fresh shrimps to be processed.

As we walked from one section of the plant to another, your nose was being pampered by a succession of scents and aromas, from the lemongrass and the barley to the mayonnaise and the peppers. Archie loves food, by the way, and he marries this with his passion for technology.

Younger son Larry talked about how in this new century, the food manufacturing business would face the challenge of creativity—how to develop and nurture young talents would blend "to change the mindset of people when it comes to snack food. It is no longer junk food, with supermarkets having to carry nutrition and health."

He added, "We don't limit ourselves when it comes to the food's tastes."

Indeed, how backgrounds and factors engage—have children with versatile passions and interests, and enabling these multi-disciplines to blend into one solid business venture.

JI HUNDRED Sichuan children learned Manila and Bohol, under the Oishi culture exchange program.

CARLSON Chan and sister Sherry Tio (second and third from right) tour their Manila visitors in the 2011 Shanghai Bilateralism which has been unanimously hailed a success for bridging all the specialty shops, cities and nations to. They are, from left, Paul Regin, Jean Li, Emily and Annie Regin.

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS. (Back row) John Cruz, Mrs. Vic Alcantara, Lolo Alfie Jr., Cecilia Mangubat, Betty Santillan, Dr. Cora Dee-Lim, Dr. Lolita Dee-Lee, Andy Quesada, an Ayo, Manuel Sison, Richard Bergman, Dr. Domenico Arca, Dr. Ned Dy-Liacco, Dr. Otto Cruz, (first row) Ravin Sabang, Loreta Sabang, Dioann Bergman, Rosa Vega, Roger Vega, Dr. Carlos Magsaysay, Dr. Hamid Sikat, Dr. Vicente Alcantara and Councilor Ryan Lagumbay

(FIRST row) Rosey Grace Baua Abraham, Avery Black and Yuka Abraham; (2nd row) Zebedee Abraham, Julia Isaya or Queen Abraham; (second row) Lyd Hyo Abraham, Rosa Vega, Roger Vega, Paul Vega, Richard Vega, (third row) Kara Kalipada, Prosiph Quesada, Reinhardt Quesada

BOKLON SUNRISE. Dr. Roger and Rosemarie Jean Dacanay Pagunsan, Bishop Teodoro Bacani

A golden marriage

DOCTOR ROGER Vega is a successful urologist practicing in Kittanning in upstate Pennsylvania. Though he has lived and worked in the US for close to five decades, Roger and his lovely wife Rose chose to come home to mark their golden wedding anniversary recently.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani officiated the anniversary Mass at the Manila Cathedral, one of the last weddings held at the Intramuros landmark before it was closed for urgently needed repairs.

The Vegas' marriage has never needed repairs, but for it was said in a solid foundation of give and take, fortified with lots of fun, laughter and togetherness. Their five sons complete and bless their union, which has turned into glorious gold.

How to find God. . .

left behind everything and followed him"; this is the gist "drama-tized", a freedom from..."they left behind, everything"—and a freedom to..."and followed him."

Piano concerto

In our annual retreat in our second year in the seminary in Mo. relishes, the late Fr. Joe Cruz, SJ, narrated a story about a Jesuit student in Rome. He was one of the multi-renowned theologians of the Church and—in his 60th birthday he had a small dinner with close friends.

After dinner, the cardinal played a piano concerto with the skill and passion of a concert pianist. It was the first time his friends listened to him play. It was only then that most of them found out that he had left behind a potentially brilliant career as concert pianist in Europe to be a Jesuit priest.

"You give us strength to purify our hearts, to control our desires and so to serve you in freedom." "It all comes together in our serving God and others with the greatest freedom. It all comes together in our serving God and others with the greatest love; we can give—us all things to serve, in all things we love.

Fr. Alphonsus Rodriguez, a Jesuit brother, worded in a poetry in S. Asia Xavier in Europe. Its document, he had to run to the door every time someone rang the bell. Doing this, he always believed that in every guest he welcomed into the Jesuit house, he might his her station in life, he welcomed Jesus Himself.

This is the greatest service with the greatest love—as Ignatius puts it so the "closer" to his spiritual Exercises, "to find God in all things" in our day-to-day life or, as my late beloved spiritual director put it, "to find God's extraordinary love and grace in the ordinary things of our life."

The Pinoy chips . . .

From page F2

brella from Liwayway Group of Companies.

In 1974, Liwayway ventured into snack food manufacturing and created "Chiki"—delicious as beautiful, in Japanese—to denote the Japanese technology used in their production.

Carlos is the eldest in the brood of eight. Starting Manuel opened the snack food manufacturing business which, in the late '70s, he would turn over to Carlos. Banggay was first—the "bebe" in the family and "apple of their eye"—he could be Ben Chan, the Subaru retail icon whose family would be a landmark in Philippine retail and fashion.

Carlos was an Architecture student of Mapua Institute of Technology when he decided to quit college and work full-time in the family business. Today, relishing the fact that he's "I, edited, and Ilan solidified to play golf, he said he just wants "enjoy life's simple pleasures."

At the Shanghai World Expo of 2010, visitors to the Philippine Pavilion expressed surprise as they saw Chiki products on display—several days they didn't know that Chiki's unique snack food brand was a Pinoy creation.

In product development Chiki has found champions, even among the Chan friends' members, with each one hunting for the snack food one loves. Carlos Chan is listed champion for marshmallows and soft candies.

Marshmallows...that's how life's simple pleasures is turned into governing business.

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How to find God in our day-to-day life

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

IN HIS RECENT book, "Heroic Living," Chris Lowney bridges the gap between our lofty vision and mission and the practical day-to-day steps we must take to make the vision and mission a reality in our daily lives.

This is the wisdom we need to make a difference in the lives of others or in the life of even just one person. This is what service is all about—making a difference in the lives of others.

This is the wisdom we gain as we go through the process of formation, as we "... purify our hearts... control our desires and so to unite you in friendship." This is the wisdom of the movement of grace in the second week of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola: "Lord, God I may see (love more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly."

The mantra "Godward" drives home the point as it pivots on magis movement. "Dearest Lord, three things I pray. To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more closely, day by day." Day by day may I serve you in the day-to-day.

Serving God in freedom is following Jesus more nearly in his day-to-day living out the grace and gateway of the Cross and Resurrection in the day-to-day. Surely as our world spaces with this, surely many will agree when we say "more and then closer." Amen.

Last week we focused on the second part of awareness—purifying our hearts, which means we are aware of our inordinate attachments, unidentifying our desires, which means we are aware also of the need to control our desires or passions. I refer to this as the second part of awareness: it focuses on our weaknesses and also to sins.

> Awareness and acceptance are the first steps

Deliberate order

There is a third part in the Ignatian dynamics of awareness. It is an awareness of our blessings, our goodness and strengths. This is a deliberate order in the process Ignatius says that a person must be aware of these positives first so that he/she may feel more confident. This way the person becomes more prepared to bring the negatives in his/her life more open to enter the second part of the process.

My flat out with the people you work and/or live with. See what you can do it on work. Let me share an example.

One of the most important jobs of a principal is to give feedback and the annual evaluation and rating of the faculty of the Ateneo de Manila High School. That was a very confidential issue and a source of strife.

The first year I did that, I relied on the wisdom of Ignatius. The feedback session was in front of one-on-one meeting with each faculty. I would review the files of each faculty to find out what you read that ought all the evaluations and ranks notes, which I would use in my session. In the first 10-20 minutes I would give all the positive feedback, where the teacher did well, citing concrete examples of how those good experiences were done.

After 15-20 minutes of this, the teacher, on his or her own, would begin to talk about what needed improvement in his or her teaching. Then a very open and constructive conversation would ensue. What even made it more amazing was that the areas of improvement the teacher volunteered were exactly the same points indicated in his/her personal evaluation.

Ignatian wisdom

This wisdom of Ignatius reminds me of Zacchaeus, when the Lord detected his sincerity to be loved and forgiven. Because of this, Zacchaeus awakens his shortcomings. Not only does he confess, but he also completes the reconciliation through restitution.

Zacchaeus is now free to follow Jesus. He is now free to serve God and others.

Awareness and acceptance—"Lord, that I may see thee more clearly"—the first step in the formation is the starting point. One can neither bypass it nor get stuck on it. It is the necessary means to an end, which is freedom: freedom from and freedom to.

When one becomes aware of and accepts one's persons and life, see everything and the whole again, one cannot but see that real things God is present, and in all moments he is providential, God is always present and lovingly guiding all events in our life. This is the greatest freedom—knowing that He is in charge.

The response to this, as Ignatius wisely points out, love love more more dearly. And for Ignatius, "Love is best expressed in deeds." To love love more dearly is to follow Him more nearly; living a life of service, a service lived with greater freedom as it is lived with greater love.

As the sculpture stories of the call of the first disciples illustrate, "... They

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DEPARTMENT STORE

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor
SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Rivera

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

MY STELLISH friend, Cecille Zamora van Sinderen, dropped by, all in black, as usual, in the most dangerous boots ever. She was bearing a gift in a big polo-shirt box. It's a doll! she announced, beaming proudly. It's my dad's birthday, and I bought him a doll so I got one for you, too.

I thought it might be a Shirley Temple doll or a Vampir doll, retro cute, plump, nostalgic, smiling icon of my childhood. Her name is Barbie, said Cecille. She's by Lynard Pozas. I have Lynard Pozas as an art curator.

Then I saw Barbie. I had to hold on to a chair. Her hairdo was bright, large and spunky eyes, blush-colored teeth and a bo-bola chin. She was sitting backbone on a sharp stick (or was it a human thigh?) but I also lovely? Cecille chirped.

How did your dad like his doll? I asked. He loved it! said Cecille. The box we must have still rolled on my face, so Cecille put Barbie on the mantelpiece in possible.

I think I have known/ The doll find

LAMET !!!

'Lahat ng may tattoo, addict'

Lilli-Ann wavered between Vomit Boy and Garapata. Garapata is, yes, a fat, black, blood-sucking flea. There was a big bloated Mama Garapata and her brood of three in the display case

"FEMINISTS," by Gilda Cordero Fernando

Sleep doesn't come easy

The jeepney is ablare with the strains of 'One Moment in Time' blasting out of Whitney Houston's lungs so mightily my limb muscles twitch to its beat

By Ricardo S. Haloy
Contributor

MY NEIGHBOR, well-heeled from a family legacy vested in political fortunes, nurses a stable of vehicles. I'm hardly one to covet or his right to own a luxury SUV/s and a few top-of-the-line sedans. But let me tell you what this bird is all about.

All his rolling conveyances are fitted with ear-splitting devices that the drivers use to announce their arrival. I'm still catching up on a much-delayed sleep when a version of infernal hi-tech cocoa ka-ka-kaw shatters. If the resident guard happens to be in the guardroom, I thrug off the nightmare with a narrowed curse and go back to sleep.

But when the poor sentinel is somewhere else (reported in the maid's quarters at this moment) he usually happens my brethren plan to catch precious sleep goes awry. The jerk behind the wheel presses the horn plate with the determined speed of a message

JAMES 91

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'Lahat ng may tattoo, addict'

From page F1

scene from an aberrant toy shop adored by young people called Secret Fetish. My own pinkish lobes bled dripping in on it in literal throbbing, Ortigas, to buy some bewitched resonance, round or pen. The artistic-mess-theatre one day of seeing their own plausible disarrays cascading into these horrific plastic things. Their tots had no business being there.

But my 40-year-old daughter-in-law, who had adopted Gothic, insisted, one Saturday after a lunch in Greenhills, on dropping by Secret Fetish. She wanted to buy Tinnie Boy, number 1 ghoulish "my date" item by J.J Zamoranos. Would Boy in a green child suspended in the air by its own Sharpie nails of vanity.

The horror shop is owned by someone called Big Boy. It is manned by a most amicable creature, hung as an onion spaghetti, named Robert Dela.

Lilli-Ann swerved between Manjit Boy and Gangsta. Gangsta is, yes, a fat, black, blood-sucking flea. There was a big Mounted Master-Gangsta and her brood of slaves in the display case. They surrounded a frightened dog with a human body.

Almost thousand pesos, said Robert Dela. Is that so? I asked Lilli-Ann hopefully. No, only for the Mama Gangsta, said Robert.

Inquiries priced for the babies and the dog.

Octopus from hell

Lilli-Ann wandered around. She saw Zombie Stabber and a trio of minibots with black miniature up to their temples. She spurned neon-rubberized dazzle. There were some best pennies. She saw an octopus from hell. She liked everything. She didn't know what to choose.

Elmer Buchegger agreed to design a toy for us, bragged Robert. Here is me. Elmer is the most revered painter in town. He sez, sez count thing figurative. Boy Boy are not quite symbiogel. It will come back when you have Elmer's, I promised.

Robert brought us to an art gallery on an upper floor. Hey! Rabbit! said Lilli-Ann. The rabbitter was a guy called Marcus Sticks. There was a big cardboard sculpture of some cut-in-half and legs. On the wall were cartoons. The caption of the first cartoon read: "Lahat ng May Tattoo Addict." The next one: "Lahat ng May Bgste Mauswang Ito." The glad my husband who had a mountain he saw not with us. He would have gone ballistic. But he's now a dead zombie, too. I tried hard to avoid looking at the rest of the art.

Robert insisted on taking us to the basement, which is me looked like a former ab-

lutorn. It contained long walls of street art. We stood in front of a nice one that looked like it had been through Sodom and Lesser-rah. Someone wants to buy it, said Robert, but it is painted straight on the concrete wall. If we take it off the building might collapse.

On the way back, we had to pass by a floor selling mattresses. My bored son, who had been driving us, plopped down on one of the mattresses. You are allowed to nap no other for a one hour trial, Robert said.

Mel turned over on his stomach. "Yeah good," said Mel. "Try it, Ma." I looked under the bed to make sure none of the critters had followed us.

I sat down on the orthopedic mattress and bounced once. I tried a softer mattress and bounced once. The salesman gave me a gel pillow to lie on. I laid down on it. It felt great.

"Ma's had in her house is ready to fall apart," Lilli-Ann told Mel. "Why buy the bed for you," Mel told me. The price does not include the bed, said the salesman, only the mattress. Throw in the bed too, said Mel, taking out his credit card. The sales man made a lot of calculations. Robert bounced on another bed.

Sold! Mel said. Mel had bought me a more new mattress and bed. It was the happiest Sunday of my life.

"BAD Hair Day," by Silvia Cordero Fernando

Sleep doesn't come easy

From page F1

ninja flicking the crumble of a Nintendo game. I, then, become the insomniac collateral damage. Any plane ride chock-by-post is the neighborhood rooster-in-1.

Outdoorsgirl, still with functional middle ear, finally hears the call of duty and dashes out to swing the potsik spaces-ring foot.

I don't know how my kids like pajamas holds out, but I'm about ready to pull the jar of new magic easy pseudo and dispatch the despoilers of my peace to kingdom come. In anathemizes, for sure.

Sleep doesn't come easy after that breach of good neighborliness, if at all. There's more vexation to come as I discover that my sister has left with me going the bar borrowed my car for much of her morning's concerns. Trying to feel on top of the situation, I decided to have no qualms taking the public transport to my appointment.

I had the first pregnancy that comes along for me for nearly one year to lose. With the discovery of the heroic excisers who factored through the rubble in the Negros Oriental earth quake in search of victims, I easily find a man directly behind in the dense.

In full again

I realize I'm in hell again. The journey is ablaze with the strains of "Our Moment in Time" blessing out of Whitney Houston's lungs as mightily my limb muscles march to its beat. Loud may be an understatement, deafening is right on the button. But I choose to bring it on and describe the journey this to outdoors performing, unrehearsed, marooning and, not too far-fetched, numb-inducing.

Am I sharing the tissues with someone? I look down the seats and instantly discover that I'm an absolutely the odd man out.

Some are beaming with Miss Houston (this was half a year before her bereavement), others avidly admiring with the nose, a few are thumping their feet to the beat. Don't ask me how I told the driver to stop at my destination. But I remember later feeling a remorse on my palm's backside than must have come from pounding at the jeep ser's ceiling.

Now is not the best time for me to start self-bashing, except as we are in metropolitan prides, standards and official dictionary. But I guess it won't harm the national pride to be told that noise—a terrible, infuriating and debilitating blight in our civilized pretensions—is a way of life that needs to go.

Hence, Mr. Loud and dynamite fishing, is rightly adjudged an ecological threat to our peace, privacy and not least, our sanity. Unfortunately, few seem bothered by the cacophonous chatter, the boisterous laughter and the raucous radio that surround our waking, and in my case, slumbering hours. It is noise that preempts the cadence and choreography to the lines we tread.

One resonant in time

I have a friend of fascinating knowledge and boundless passions. After four years of unpainted screen, she's back hacking it out in the corporate world with a full measure of success. After an enduring week of breakfast meetings, presentations, ongoing stacks of checks and documents, all she looks forward to is a weekend of serenity among her plants and rose-shaded garden.

It's her one moment in time that gives her the strength and the grace to face the coming week's daunting tasks. Like her, we shall discover that in escaping there is a world of truth and beauty. When we banish the noise that trespasses our peaceful routines and rhythms, we shall be able to hear Whitney Houston's songs the way they were meant to be heard and sung—softly, gently and with a sneak of gentle malice.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD (By Frank A. Longo)

SCIENCE OF FLIGHT

Grand float competition set

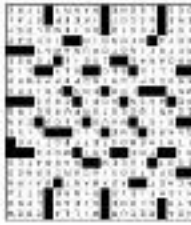
THE FLOAT Competition of the Ahwen Fiesta, the biggest and grandest assembly of local floats, began in 2005. As the most awaited summer celebration, it has set a standard of excellence and quality for floats from local contingents and communities. The tough competition has established stringent criteria on material, theme, craftsmanship and interpretation.

Over the years, indigenous resources have been used—the fresh flowers of Bugnis, the colorful bird's nest of Isabela, the lush gardens and refreshing ponds of Cangguin, Bulacan, the carved, scraped and polished bamboo of Malolos Bulacan, and the bullnose gods on seaside of Boco Scats.

The group of the Manila Broadcasting Corporation has been a valuable assistance in staging this float competition.

Ahwen Fiesta, to be held on April 13-14, is sponsored by Manila Broadcasting Company and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Christ of Manila and Bunay.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



The 'living treasure . . .'

From page F1

My mother was a doting one, busy gathering singing bonsai, happier when her grandchildren chanced for hugs and kisses at the end of her day.

It took several years and as many grandchildren to get me used to the idea that I was indeed a grandmother. I had visions of myself, sitting in a rocking chair surrounded by my grandchildren and telling them stories. I guess I wanted to be like Lola Banyong. I wanted to see their eyes sparkle and shine with excitement. I longed to see them holding their breaths, hanging on my every word.

Incidentally, I was quite up set when I learned that Lola Banyong was really a man—Severino Reyes, founder of the Liwayway magazine. He created "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Banyong," a collection of Filipino short stories, legends, fables and humanities, all gems of fiction steeped in our traditions and golden values. There were stories of a magic flute, a prince with a long nose, a magic stable and dozens more.

My grandchildren know very little about our family. Have I told them that my father grew up in an orphanage? Do they know that Overseas groups used to raise funds for him and his brothers so they could go to school?

Good story

Everyone enjoys a good story. Once at a Christmas dinner, I was entertaining with another old story, and suddenly we had an audience of children and young adults. They couldn't wait to hear more about the

war, and tried to imagine what it was like before the advent of the cell phone. One of the little ones asked if I was older than Jesse Wise.

I described dogfights, dive bombers, a twin-boiled P38, and told them about the huge Hurricane nose defeated only an hour before the city surrendered.

Will they believe me if I were dazed on an aircraft carrier and how, the very next week, I hyperventilated in a submarine? I must tell them that my first newspaper assignment as a wire-copy editor was an execution, and that I resigned on the spot, much to the delight of my city editor who laughed his head off and kept me on anyway.

They may enjoy hearing that some aspects of time flow in less than a single year, that when I played hide and seek, no one looked for me. I remember as a child, where water never formed. I was so afraid not to be counted in.

Once in a while, this bee comes back. When there is a crisis, our children need to squeeze. But we want to be in the moment. Our need is to be needed is powerful.

Our shoulders may be starting to droop but the weight of the years that made their strong and beautiful. Our eyes may not be as clear, but they have seen more than you can ever imagine and have cried the tears you have yet to shed. And because we have journeyed longer and farther, we may have a nugget of wisdom for you.

Who knows, you may yet discover that, indeed, there is a living treasure of gold in your home.

Living with seniors–my special calling

By Maria Corazon Gonna
Contributor

I LIVE with two single-blessed aunts in Sta. Ana, Manila. They are siblings of my father.

One is age 86, the other, 88. Despite their ages, they remain sharp-minded, selective and precise. Of course, these are the health problems usual to their age, but generally they do well, something we ought to dream of when we get to that point.

And Manila is now 82, while Papa, at 88, still lifts weights and makes it a point to have daily walking exercises. I used to be a full-time resident daughter in my parents' house, until I moved to the old house of my grandparents, where my aunties reside.

Moving is not a mere arrangement for a person like me who runs her own life, juggles roles and is a confirmed workaholic.

But that's not the point.

Living with the "olds" was a daring decision for me. The benefits can be numerous. There are strings of privileges, comforts, especially treasures that none may in right financial dreams. It's the olds who hold me out when I'm up against the wall.

There's a lot of sarcasm between two opposite poles governed by different traditions, with one embracing quick pants, the onset of technology and anything edgy and trendy. There are clashes like the Balisong war—something, I think, time should alter.

Sometimes, though, stubborn acts by the olds can be bad for your health. Many a normal me ask how I survive the situation, and I always say, "How." Answer to say thus do. But honestly, don't take them too seriously. Don't get in their way. Just flow. Let it be known that this day shall pass, and another day will come.

It helps that I am feisty to approach my ways. It helps that I am more tolerant, personality-focused. And it helps that I mind myself first, and I don't let me value I am.

Tender annihilation

Of course, there are myriad discussions between the olds and me. I remember wish I could cut my throat, so I'd stop rabbiting, or some spell a cure that could trigger tender annihilation—hmm, and all misunderstandings end go.

But you can't just walk away from the olds' hardwirings without losing conscience by guilt.

And when you can't simply slip away to ummm down becomes a special calling. It is an art practiced with different modalities of patience. I have been learning this through the years, and I'm still learning.

My modus with them are 10 times stronger than rational egos clashing, something that could break your soul. But I still come home mindful of who has not eaten, and why just a spoonful was consumed. I call the olds and book their sentences of sad cleaning. I regularly check on their letters. I check out who has not changed his/her diapers, and I see to it that they eat on time.

Still, we clash. We love. We cherish the sweet breakfast. And I see in my eyes that love in this manner is patience. There are challenges met with understanding and tolerance.

Perhaps you haven't in a quandary unable to determine whether the olds back home or your self should be the priority. Who comes first, and how do you weigh it?

When you feel like giving up, take the backseat—that's the comfort zone. Change perspective. You have to rise above it to maximize. Liberate yourself, even for only a few days. Recharge your energy. Detachment is in order, so you can claim later, "I have taken care of myself, too."

Never blame the setup. Savvy has ways of designing life quizzes that are beneficial. Love giving of the "olds" is one of my roles, but I never complain about the rigor.

Drained

Several times it has drained me physically and mentally. It eats up your time and sometimes keeps you away from your own luxury. Now for can you go on? Would you wholeheartedly share your time, your strength, with the "olds"? How you asked yourself if you are willing to make long-term sacrifices?

Case-giving of the "olds" is an, undeniable test. Do you have enough patience? Do you know how committed you are, and the parameters of your responsibilities?

Caring is tantamount to saying, "Let go of the self." It's about the art "to express and not sacrifice." It's Christian, in many ways, with spiritual grace sweating those who were called to it. But how well can you cope? Where should you draw inspiration from?

Never doubt how much you can give them. Never do an audit of your acts. Just say, "My self-people back home are the resources of my origins. They are bridges across the generations. They are part of life courses that essentially look to the future, with core connections to the past."

Caring for the old could be a series of battles, with no guarantees of conquests. Sometimes the old age stirs much resistance, while some are happy to reach it, others worry about passing away.

When this happens, remind yourself that God listens in many ways, and in caring, one gives decency back to lives that once nourished us.

That's why I say, "Being grateful is the essence of care."

The sainted spouse

Chit Roces

NOT QUITE THERE

According to statistics, widowers are more affected than widows. A woman dating a widower has a tough act to follow

"DYING is no big deal... every body will manage it. Living is the trick," says Red Smith, a Pulitzer Prize winner for sportswriting, not just sports writing, which he did all his life, himself living the trick until days before his death, at past 90.

Smith perhaps felt the need to set the living straight, precisely because dying seems to have become somewhat synonymous with martyrdom, such that, almost as a matter of course, it elicits not just great compassion but general admiration, if not from God, at least from the Christian bloc.

Sainthood has never come easier, indeed. Gimme forgiven, and nihilism blown up. Meanwhile, most men anyone-as-soon-as-is bring up sexy things about someone else: his or her death, no matter, say, as personal, if such things were true! How very nice for the dead spouse. But I've always wondered how the widowed is affected as far as the prospects of remarriage are particularly concerned.

Anyway, according to statistics, widowers are more affected than widows. A woman dating a widower has a tough act to follow. If the wife died lately young, the problem is even compounded: She will never grow older or more wrinkled or fatter. And if the prospective second wife were a best friend, the ghost of marriage past can come a-haunting, and the smugness of some of the living go a-nagging.

I remember a good friend in a dilemma of her own: pointing to her commissioned life-size portrait. There hung in the living room a younger version of her wearing the most inspirative, expensive-looking necklace.

She said it did not exist—it was a mere creation of her imagination, painted precisely to torment her husband's future bride, drive her mad in search of it. She had other handiwork planned, I presume, for any future intruder.

The dead in her late 80s, a few years after our dinner. Her husband has not remarried and...now in his very frail 90s, very suddenly still.

Curiously widowers don't seem to lack for dates. But to many (not to modern matters, and its chances are nearly if not decidedly reduced if they have automotive enough children. And it's just as well: Everybody gets older and have their fun with one another's middle years.

Lost presence

A friend who lost his young wife suddenly and is stubborn is a hard case, and seems growing more so even harder one. Sitting beside me at a beach that painfully reminded me all of her last presence among us in the same home, he said, sweated, "I'm wearing her jacket."

It was the first time I had seen him since the funeral, and I could sense he wanted to talk about her, so I encouraged him. Knowing by experience that talking about one's loss always helps.

"Her face was untouched by the accident," he said, picking out of his wallet a most recent picture of her, pretty and youngish looking (but her 54 years). She had been making her presence felt, he said.

THE LIVING 11

The perfect Frank Feldman

A MAN steps out into the street and right into a cab, as if it had been there all along waiting for him.

"Perfect timing. You're just like Frank," says the cabbie.

"Who?"

Cabbie: "Frank Feldman. He's a guy who did everything right all the time, like my coming along when you needed a cab. Things happened like that to Frank Feldman every single time."

Passenger: "There are always a few deadly ones everybody."

Cabbie: "Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He was like an opera baritone and dammit! like a Broadway star, and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy."

Passenger: "Sounds like he was something really special."

Cabbie: "There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthdays. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which left to eat them with. He could fix anything. Hot like me. I change a fuse, and the whole street blinks out. But Frank Feldman could do everything right."

Passenger: "Wow, some guy to have."

Cabbie: "He always knew the quickest way to get to real fix and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Frank, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong, and his charming ways always romanticize. He was perfect, perfect, too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman."

Passenger: "An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?"

Cabbie: "Well... I never actually met Frank. He died and I wanted his f-king wife!"

The 'living treasure of gold' in your home

One of the little ones asked if I was older than Snow White

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

THERE'S a Chinese proverb that says: "A family with an old person has a living treasure of gold."

I remember how much I believed that. Not that I have illusions of being a treasure, or even becoming one. But it would be nice, wouldn't it? To be held in high regard is among life's loftiest aspirations, right alongside the fervent desire to be respected, loved and, yes, needed.

I have recently been meeting with seniors. Among other things, are themes our fears as well as our joys. We laugh and sometimes we cry as we recall the soaring peaks and deep valleys of life.

It's amazing what we counter have diverse our backgrounds are, we have similar experiences. There is no one else we know who could sit for hours to listen and understand our reminiscences and ramblings. Items about the good old days. It is because like having our own sweet nonny.

He belongs to an era that to the young seems almost prehistoric. But let me tell you. It was really good back then.

Different landscape

Today, a totally different landscape opens up before the youth. Things have changed and the changes have not been kind. Interminder how at only values must happens. We search for rules of conduct that have all but disappeared.

The world around us has become outside and unfeeling. With all the incredible technology which pioneers the modern sources of entertainment, it cannot even offer an ounce of the stability and sanity that once was given in our twenty-day life.

In our struggle to accommodate wealth and all the trappings of success, we have lost the heart and soul of what makes life worth living.

Instead of looking so intently at what we can find to enter space, we might want to explore the lives, birds and heroes on what is right in front of our faces—the family.

Long ago, there was a nightly appointment on television: "It's bedtime for Bonzo." Now, it was 8 p.m. 9 p.m.?) Do you know where your children are?"

It would probably be ridiculed today even declared a violation of human rights or some other constitutional taboo.

In our day, we asked permission to go anywhere. Today, we have the slamming of the front door or the revving up of a car. Do you know where your children go and in whose company they are? I am told that parents no longer ask.

Things have spun out of control.

Is there a role that we as grandparents can play to set things right? What are the chances of silver or lola stepping in? If one were to take a poll, I think the numbers would safely show that we are expected to "butt out."

Vague recollection

What kind of a grandparent are you? I never knew mine. My dad was an orphan at a very early age, and my maternal grandmother died very young. I have a vague recollection of my aunts. I remember accepting him by clicking on the corners of his rocking chair. He swam under his breath in Spanish. I thought it sounded funny. He smelled of Agua Florida. We visited him in the Tabacalera compound.

THE LIVING 11

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The cheap thrills of being Ateneans in the '50s

Mayong Onlubin:

GUT FEEL

Sinful shows

The sinful shows were Klaap the 5-Bottle at Aster Theater and Virgie Knight, the Burlesque girl at Today Theater, where blocks away from the bustle of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo. Both theaters employed two full strippers and sloppily legit. We carried our faces as we hurriedly exited the theaters. If our Director of Discipline got wind of our naughty escapades, we would surely be expelled from Ateneo. Our mothers would've died of shame.

We learned how to smoke by puffing Chelsea or Fatima Cigarettes. Drug addiction was unknown.

The car of our dreams was the two-door Ford Thunderbird first lowered mufflers, or the sleek two-tone Chevy Bel-Air.

Our mothers bought our school needs at Sampaloc Row, on R. Hidalgo, our clothes at Good Earth Bazaar or Avenue's Store. The middle class shopped at Aguinaldo's in Echague, a US-style department store that looked like Macy's.

When eating out, we all went to Mother Lak for tsaya and siopao and the steamed chicken with dumplings, named Hotlunga. The Magnolia soda fountain in Escolta was where we treated ourselves to American-style milkshake and banana split.

Aspects and Tropical Hut were the supermarts, setup-fashion in the compound for today's SM Megamalls.

Our high school batch at Ateneo was the first going outside to transfer from the Quonset hut at Padre Faura to the unpainted, box-like building in Loyola Heights. Loyola Height was a virtual prairie with dusty roads and tall cogon grass, the whole hundred hectares serving as a proving ground for Filipino scouts and growing land called Muntinlupa Valley.

On first base, painted yellow, located all the students in Sitters. From pickup points all over Manila. The buses dropped students off at the same spot after classes. If you missed the bus, you got stranded, and had to walk all the way to CP Bolton or Kamuning to get a ride home.

Lunch at the cafeteria was P1, served on rainy metal trays, for fried milkfish or corned beef hash topped with fried egg, boiled rice, mongo/dingaw beans and watery soup.

Ateneo was a school for boys only, and our days were filled to the brim with and when to share. It was Grace Kelly or Doris Day for us boys. We girls if we either Rock Hudson (a closet gay) or Clint Eastwood.

The baddies were Edward G. Robinson, Richard Widmark and Jack Palance. All had a menacing scowl on their faces.

Radio was the medium that conveyed the entire country "Tawag ng Tanghalan" was the phenomenon/life. A program that made Democrito Mercado a household name because of his much different singing voice. Frank Sinatra and Sarah Vaughn songs were top hits.

Immortal

We possessed young bodies, agile, limber and immortal. At the crowded courts, we drew goal to goal a dozen times, did a flying leap up and backdoor our hats gracefully without a scratch. We could down six bottles of Coke a day, eat one whole set of rice at lunch at Eagles Nest, and complete a pound. Our metabolic rate worked like clockwork, burning all the calories we could take.

We went our freaks and staged battles of friendly against the members of Lyceum after an NCAA game.

The females of the '50s were Americans who belonged to the Silent Generation. They held sway over our student life. Their numbered one a contraction called sexy-students, the social system of education that prepared students to be loaded along supreme evaluators, and balanced with affectation for us to seem to empty cans.

You couldn't be idle or bored at anytime high. Aside from composing Latin verses, writing endless English compositions and book reports, there were post-church walk and evening prayers as our preadolescent days left behind school rules.

We were also encouraged to join many activities. Role lucky, be a soldier, to be an athlete join the Student Body, to be sports-less, join the ACE. Scout, apply at the Domestic Society to sing, be a Glee Club member to love the Eucharist, join the Mary Help to be an altar boy, join the Santo Nomy Society, and many others.

After 50 years, I'm proud to say we have not forgotten our Ateneo values and traditions. We've kept the habit of going to reunions, communions and bonny blue robes. And when pals came to down, we did what all Ateneans know by heart. One Big Night!

We were 210 who graduated in 1955. We are grandfather-gloss, we were all dressed in gray suits and dark ties (all suited), looking handsome, clean-cut and extremely presentable...thanks to G Heaven Fernando and Godmore Bonpet Dallantoc.

E-mail lgonzales@gmail.com

The sainted spouse

From page 03

empowered, though not necessarily mature. He has been pouring his energy and sorrow into the effort of collecting lost writings as a journalist, teacher and rights advocate.

Another case is a widowed friend from the States. His wife died last year, after a few years of on-and-off dialysis, leaving quiet from him, three children and three grandchildren. She was in her early 70s and had battled her share of conjugal conditions, some of them left unresolved.

Their Manila visits provoked tensions—they stayed with each other's relatives. They stopped visiting when the son-in-laws. When a chance at reunion came, the children's fears knew and pinned it up—the hotels planned our divorce it, and I was only too shocked to see anything.

Only two months ago, the sadness visited us the first time since tears love deadly nearly a year earlier. Toward the end of his trip, as was his wont, he called. "Hi, hi, hi!" laughing but that time with some awkwardness. We first reminded each the years when our children were playmates in the States, then sparkled each other. Finally he began to tell me about love.

"When I left her at the hotel to love that night for a couple surprised me about," he said softly. "I didn't know it would be the last time I would see her alive." She had suffered a heart attack, leaving him stunned, angry, and in the end his physically drained, for said, to even think of using the hospital.

"But your meanings lasted until the end," I said, hoping to console him—after all, my own meanings elated.

"You know, there were times when I thought of leaving her," he said. "Now, it doesn't even seem to me—leaving her."

Surely, he meant her mother. And just as surely, no woman would like to intrude into that territory.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernie S. Velarde

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Movie queen on her 'king'

GLORIA ROMERO, upon learning that perennial screen partner Leo Gonzalez passed away Thursday night: "Almost all are leading men have died. The only one still alive is Ramon Revilla Sr." She first worked with Gonzalez in the boogeyman movie, "Tenpuetsiokee" in 1958. "He loved ballroom dancing," she said. —Reynold Sese Diego Jr.

HEARD

SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
So thick & creamy, it's served upside down.
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Wealthy benefactor dumps unstable actress

CRISTINE Reyes likes Pido Pascual!

By the Entertainment Staff

UNSTABLE ACTRESS? Our tipsters didn't work on Tuesday. Remember ITA now earlier reported which WB in public and rumors of a brewing (illicit) romance soon made the rounds.

According to confirmed reports, WB got himself off by ITA's unpredictable behavior. The final straw came when WB's name started cropping up in showbiz columns. WB's camp seriously suspected it was Ubi's handiwork.

WB returned to the arms of Ukbi Socialite, whose life is uncomplicated compared to Ubi's.

Threatening tone

Controversial Personality once confronted Online Writers about negative articles on Lady Love. Threatening ONE and Family with bodily harm. Spooked, ON started to dodging CPI every where, said an observer.

Now that CP and LL have broken up, ON has resumed posting unsavory tidbits about the girl. Is CP the source?

Bragging rights

Harley Sportsman is notorious for bragging about a physical asset that supposedly

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BY SANDIGANBAYAN

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Wealthy benefactor...

From page C1

rivals those of pure ones. Previous pun-nery point to bottled water for reference.

Is that the reason he managed to lure sexy starlet into his boudoir? Ill is indignant for being "insinuated." Sounds like a match made in Kuwait heaven.

On the side, Ill has invited pay clients who willingly part with expensive gadgets for a night of pleasure.

Before and after

Penny Mendoza used to be one of the most sought-after models in Manila. PM even tried to join show biz, appearing in a youth-oriented project, although not getting involved with a hard-living performer PM disappointed from the scene.

Googling PM's name now yields a disturbing sight: A mug shot from Florida. The photo shows an older version of PM—but disheveled and disturbed, though.

Jinri's side

Cassandra Ann Ollendo has issued a statement regarding her estranged wife Anna Lyn's legal action—claiming violation of Republic Act No. 9262 or anti-battering violence against women and children)—against him.

In the statement, Ann "categorically denies" Anna Lyn's unfounded accusations regarding an alleged extramarital affair and shall refrain [the latter is] in the proper forum at the proper time." He also belied "any allegation of neglect, financial or otherwise," of his children with Anna Lyn.

Sexy summer

Anne Curtis and Dutch Paalisbuel headline festivities kicking off Century Tuna Superbods 2012. Salute to Sexy summerside model search. The finals will be held on April 14 in Boracay.

Showtime!

Mainstays of ABS-CBN's "It's Showtime!" are featured in "Lahing Gimbira, Kaw Pa!"—a TV ad campaign launched recently. Pinky Villador directed the commercial, which marks the 37th anniversary of Gandara San Miguel.

New endorsers bulletin

- Toni Gonzaga for Samsung's new Dual SIM Champ Deluxe DUOS mobile phone
- Anthony Pangilinan and wife Minkoi Luis for Wilson Depot

Top of Bandera

The top show biz news in the business tabloid Bandera (and why we are proud if we are moved):

- Dyan Castejon nagpost na sexy (Di kinilig si Papa?!)
- Michel na-shock, gumising ganito ang buy BB (Magsisi ka nanaw talaga—nothing shocking there.)
- Siya ang dapat mag-imorjan sa ex na Cantonese, Lovely Legaspi humale ng mobilyon dahil kay BB Gandanghari

KIM Jones

JENNYLYN Mercado

BIANCA King

ENTERTAINMENT

Zsa Zsa with boss and life partner Dolphy

DID YOU KNOW...

Fighting back

EASTERN PENNANT

Diana Zubiri, recently declared that Defendant by the Ormoc Cebu Cir. cle, was interviewed on television wearing her school uniform. Right after the clip was aired on "TV Patrol," "24 Oras"), a "hater" posted unsavory remarks disparaging her for being a "bold star." Zubiri's camp traced the hater tweets to a school-mate. The "hater," who could get in trouble with school authorities, apologized to Zubiri re-cently. Zubiri heard that the "hater" would like to apologize in person.

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Zsa Zsa not a has-been

ONE of the many things we like about Zsa Zsa Padilla is her being an emotionally forthright person—unequivocal, even. In the phony world of show business, she feels... and tells... it like it is.

Those past few years however, her personal challenges, many involving her love and life partner, Dolphy—who appears to be going from one medical crisis to another—have taken their toll on her emotionally accessible nature. There are things simply too sensitive and raw to burden other people with.

Recently however, many events have made it difficult for her to hold her equanimity. She surprised even herself by lashing out at her fanbase because, rules dissed her for her age and "mature" looks, which they cruelly said made her a has-been.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Picking star targets is these bashers' way of getting noticed

"Sad, by the way is not just a cruel sentiment, it is also rather immature, because Zsa Zsa is at the prime of her performing skills, not just as a singer but also as an actress.

People to the house have the highest regard for her, and believe that she has much more to share with viewers in terms of superlative performances. So, to scoff that she is a has-been is the height of chutzpah, a crude and vicious comment from people resentful of her staying power.

Know-one, they did get to Zsa Zsa in her vulnerable years, and her emotional dam burst and spilled over. Now that Zsa Zsa is in her family's breadwinner, it was predictably galling to hear complainers about how badly she was doing in her performances.

Zsa Zsa's recent outburst on TV got to us not just emotionally but also rhetorically, when she cried out, "How can people be so cruel? Why is there so much hatred?"

It made us search for an answer, and this is what we came up with, not just for Zsa Zsa but also for the many other people who are appalled at how vile the conversation on the Net can show get, particularly when it comes to lowbrow, guileless, and impersonator-less

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3. RESERVED
4. RESERVED

Zsa Zsa not a has-been

From page 6-E

celebrity-hosting.

It is a complicated issue, but let us start with the lack of responsibility and accountability that the Yuns, to coin cupcake! It regularly brings out the worst in people who on a particularly nasty confirmation of bullies and cowards.

Their objective is to bash celebrities, because if they were to aim for nobodies, their tweets would languish unread. In targeting celebrities is their way of getting noticed and covering their 15 minutes-of-fame—even if—anonymous fame.

In addition, the relationship between star and viewer is further complicated by the potentially damning "regal factor" involved. The viewing public is supposed to admire stars, but some viewers also envy their fame and fortune, and thus demonize it.

If a "monster" legitimately feels that a star deserves to be ridiculed, the responsible critic focuses on the star's work, never on his or her persona. And the critic should reach their critique in an objective manner. Honesty does not mean the freedom to be sarcastic and insulting.

It is obvious that the people who dislike Zsa Zsa get fueling media in their action. So the beleaguered star should not allow herself to get affected by their foul diatribes.

Finally, people who do not agree that Zsa Zsa is a has-been should not remain silent, but proactively speak up in her defense. Silence exists past allows the nasty naysayers to seize control the debate) of the Net, bringing grief to Zsa Zsa and other helpless victims like her.

Ayala Malls

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2: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
3: JOHN CARTER (3D)
4: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL
5: MIRROR, MIRROR
6: MIRROR, MIRROR
7: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG

GREENBELT 5

1: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
2: MIRROR, MIRROR

GREENBELT 2

1: MIRROR, MIRROR
2: JOHN CARTER (3D)
3: MIRROR, MIRROR
4: THE LORAX (3D)
5: JOHN CARTER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: MIRROR, MIRROR
2: JOHN CARTER (3D)
3: THE LORAX (3D)
4: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL
5: MIRROR, MIRROR

ANA GRANDE GIRL

1: MIRROR, MIRROR
2: JOHN CARTER
3: CORAZON
4: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS (THE ARAMAI NAME

MARQUEE

1: JOHN CARTER
2: THE LORAX (3D)
3: MIRROR, MIRROR
4: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL

MARKET! MARKET!

1: JOHN CARTER (3D)
2: MIRROR, MIRROR
3: MIRROR, MIRROR
4: THE LORAX (3D)
5: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
6: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
2: JOHN CARTER
3: THE LORAX (3D)
4: JOHN CARTER
5: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL
6: MIRROR, MIRROR
7: MIRROR, MIRROR

ABREEZA

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2: JOHN CARTER
3: MIRROR, MIRROR
4: MY KONTRABIDA GIRL

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Why Jennifer Lawrence is less confident now

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

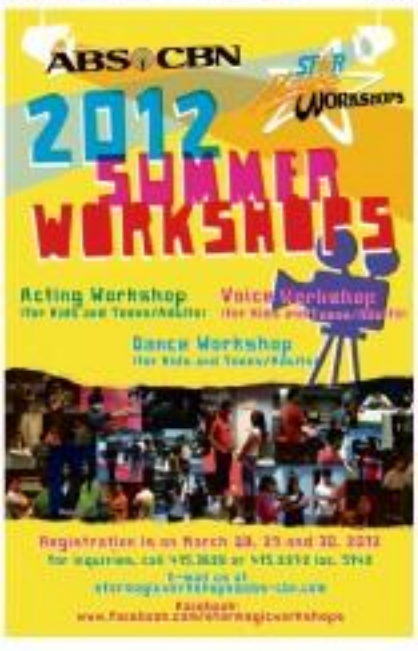
Ruben V. Nepales

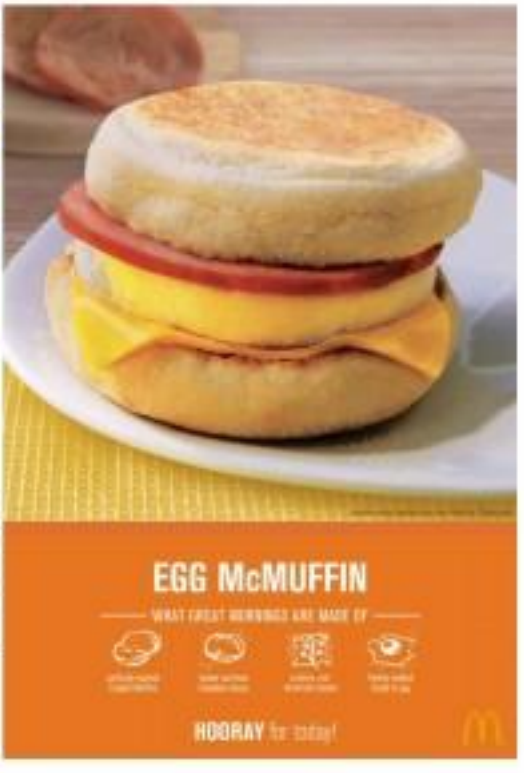
LOS ANGELES—The irony in Jennifer Lawrence's life is that at age 19, she knew acting was what she was meant to do and she would be good at it.

She never could relate on holiday with her mom in New York, she cried her fine acrys and "understood and loved it." The Louisville, Kentucky native begged her parents "every day of the school year" if they would let her return to NY for the summer and try her luck. They would see its her, would love two-old or brothers intervened.

Jennifer recalled: "My brothers told my parents, 'You travelled with us for years. You would be doing that if it were for baseball or football. This is Jennifer's 'sport' so you have to give her a chance, like you would give us a chance.' My parents did, expecting me to fail and come back home. Then everything would be back to normal. But instead, I got blown out in LA and that is where it all started."

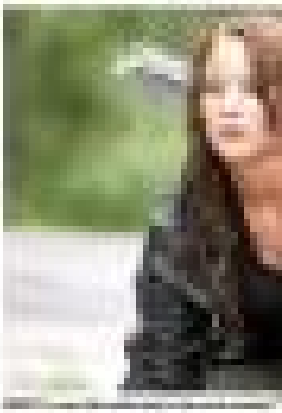
And now here she was, seated in a hotel meeting room for an inter-

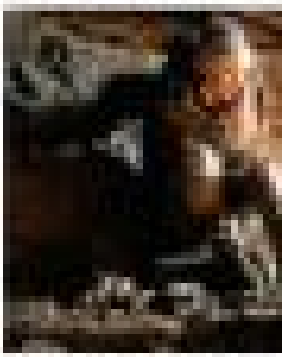




Why Jennifer ...

Jude Rivers told me she tried to tell Jennifer both sides of the story, but she refused to see reason and has since cut contact with me ... and understandably





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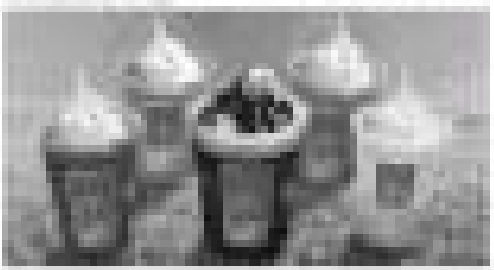

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TITAN

'Wild spirit, gentle soul,' irreplaceable

By Pechole Concepcion

IN THE EARLY 1990s, Joey "Sepi" Smith was about to finish a lackadaisical gig at the Music Museum when, out of nowhere, Karl Roy jumped onstage to jam on "Behind Mahikos." Suddenly, the place sizzled with electrifying energy—thanks to Karl, who let it so until he had just been sitting on his cot, heard the show being broadcast on WJ 107, and felt he should rush over and join Pepe.

Things moved fast for Karl's world. He was 22 when he found his calling as a rock singer. It is ironic he became famous as a live voice act, one of the few to emerge from the local alternative music scene. He was restless, making the band Advent Call and then quitting to form PULT and, later, Rapsoul.

Celebration

The rock 'n' roll life apparently took a toll on his frail body. In 1997, he had a hypass surgery at age 28. Since he suffered a stroke that paralyzed his right arm. Besides hard work he passed away after two days in the ICU of Cardinal Santos Hospital in San Juan. Karl's manager, Pete Lucas, said he died of cardiac arrest. He was 42.

At his wake Friday night at the memorial chapels of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Quezon City, family and friends gathered not to grieve, as his younger brother Kevin had requested, but to celebrate Karl's short but eventful life.

"He was my first idol," Kevin told the mourners. "I was 14 when I started going to clubs to watch him perform ... Mirrors became also my Olongapos, then DJ mine school the next day."

> Pinoy rock star Karl Roy left a deep impression on his brother and friends in the music scene

Kevin would follow in Karl's footsteps and become a singer himself. "He told me that I had to shine as and be different," Kevin recounted. At the time, the band Sinbotrek was said to have asked Karl to be its lead singer after Jose Mari Chan's quit.

But Karl turned asked Kevin if he wanted to audition, which thrilled the latter. Karl said, "On one condition—don't borrow my clothes, don't dress like me, you be your own man. 'Mi find a healthy competition. We were critical of each other's work."

Asked what he learned from Karl, Kevin said: "How to sing with power ... How to name the crowd and command respect. He could do whatever he wanted and people loved him."

Gloria Delacruz was Advent Call's manager when Karl came in with new singer. In an e-mail from Australia, Gloria told Inquirer: "Karl was a wild spirit, with a most gentle soul. I think he was happiest when he performed onstage. It was his salvation. The early successes of Advent Call's career was when Karl was our lead vocalist."

Karl was arguably one of a handful of Pinoy rock vocalists who could genuinely excite an audience with boundless, infectious, manic energy. Perhaps only Sham Boo Mahilac, Basti Lampasa (before he migrated to the United States) and Chi Ace Feria (during the punk phase of The Jerks) could seriously challenge Karl.

Lampasa, also on e-mail to the Inquirer, said: "I have great respect for Karl as a performing artist. [He had] an unapologetic, raw, manic energy. Perhaps only Sham Boo Mahilac, Basti Lampasa [before he migrated to the United States] and Chi Ace Feria [during the punk phase of The Jerks] could seriously challenge Karl.

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THE LATE Karl Roy in a pensive pose; beside him, the plaque split to the two surviving bands he was...

BACKBACK Inseparable Kevin Roy and his brother "He was my hero idol."

Rapsoul, Kevin said. "He was late to be with, but at the back of my mind I wanted about him. I won't forget the times when we would drink and he taught advice on how to manage his life."

Former Rapsoul drummer and now bandmate Jerome Ramos-Maranguis, who witnessed Karl's finest moments with Advent Call, said: "I will always remember Karl when Advent Call was the hardest working band back in the day, sometimes playing seven, four sets a night."

Former Rivermaya manager Lizza Diokno, who's currently handling Wolfgang, remembered: "I was not prepared to see a towering inferno of talent and almost left all my senses when I first saw Karl onstage. He was no doubt an original."

Radio host Mindy Gonzalez of Juicy in Crazy Sound Nation remembers: "He was a great singer. We will surely miss him."

Recorded work

But as much as Karl was a consummate performer, his recorded work did short of fulfillment. Before leaving Advent Call, he had written, produced but, the ballad "Pag-ing Ibon," which he said emotionally failed to record.

His same-titled PULT yielded the poetry-soaring hook anthem "Sagrado Ito," but it was a cover of a 1977 composition by member Percy Intal, The Advocate.

Although he extended two albums with Rapsoul, those did not create such situation. With his death, there could be renewed interest in anything that Karl may have sealed down in the studio. In fact, he was said to be aiming for a comeback, having formed a new band. He had completed five songs and he wanted to finish the album," Gerdie said. "Five more songs were left behind. I have offered to do the vocals to finish it. I don't know if his band will stay on."

Asked if he thought Karl had taken his health for granted, Kevin said, "He knew what he was doing. He loved every moment ... I only wish I had spent more time with him ... who would've known he would go like this ... so fast."

PHOTOGRAPHS and memories: The rock star captured on camera by friends and fans

SHORT but eventful life: "I want people not to grieve, but instead celebrate Karl's life," said Kevin.

PHOTO scrapbook: Karl as all encouraged from family and friends

ROCK Sensational vocals, Angeles Starrs-Roy

ENTERTAINMENT
Julie Bonnie G. Velarde
E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Living Stars

Denise Laurel's hilltop refuge

SINGER-actress Denise Laurel owns neighboring villages from her late grandfather's fiefdom to park on the four-hectare property in San Pedro, Laguna

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jun Getizo/Rawlston

ACTRESS and new mom Denise Laurel says her 18-month-old son is fortunate to have as playground the four-hectare Laurel estate in San Pedro, Laguna.

Denise's grandfather, the late former vice president Salvador "Doy" Laurel, bought the hilly property during the Martial Law years. On the hilltop is a two-story house that Doy and wife, Celia Jose, built for their retirement.

"I spent lazy Sundays here as a kid with my other cousins. It is nice to have a place that is quiet and pleasant. It lifts your mood. It is cool and windy here all year round," Denise tells Living Stars. "I remember Papa Doy telling us there were dinosaurs here and we believed him! Before the hill is a rocky terrain."

Denise's grandparents planted fruit trees such as mango, duhat, chico, guyabano, sarisol and santol, as well as herbs like lemon, tanglad and gotu kola, all around the area.

Some of her most unforgettable memories are of childhood spent here. "I would hide from my cousins behind the plants ... We used to play patintero, tago-tago and luksong-pron. Sadly, kids nowadays don't know these games. Mga Doy taught us. It's not to be afraid of nature."

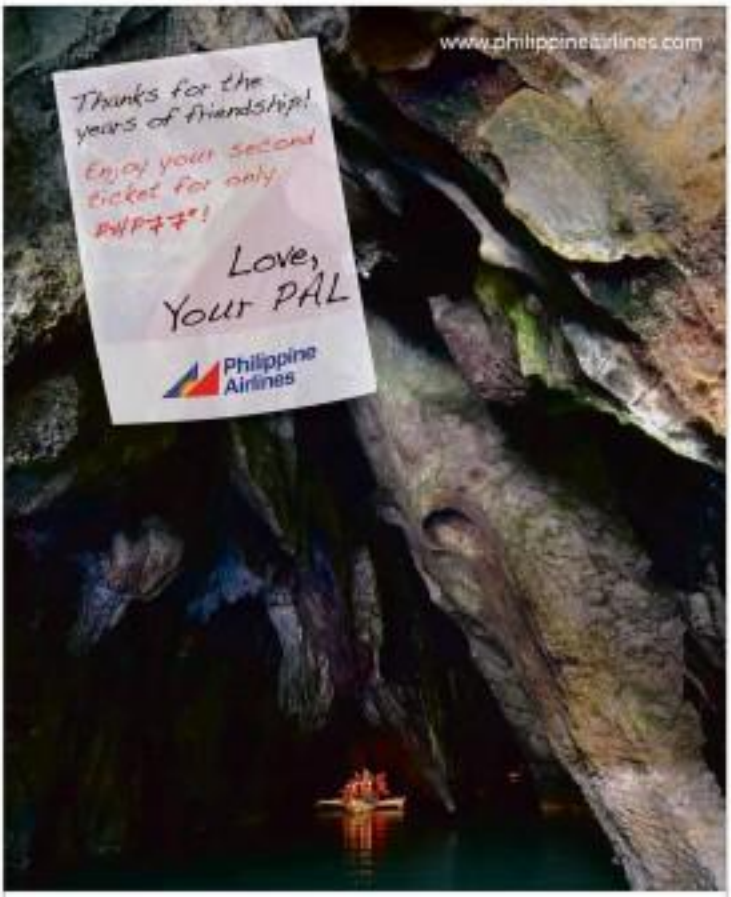
She likes to bring her son here at least twice a month, Denise says. "I call him Bakunin. Everybody is angry that I call him that, but the nickname really matches his personality. He has gray-green eyes and light-colored hair. He's adventurous, fearless, and loves to play rough."

The young mom adds: "Bakunin loves pulling on the branches of the pine trees. Since we live in the city, it's rare for him to have a place where he can run around. I want him to have a feel of nature. I'm glad that my Papa Doy did this for us."

Celia says it was the breathtaking view, which can be seen on the road leading to the property, that enticed her husband to buy the land. "We did not know this place, but every time we passed here from our old house in Mandaluyong (Sweetgate), we would look at the view and tell me he wanted the place. He came home one afternoon and told me, 'I did

DENISE 11

ALL OVER the area are lush trees and lush pastures. The family plans to build a holiday pavilion in this spot.



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ONE of Celia's bright interior design ideas — leaves as ornaments on the kitchen chandeliers.

DENISE revels playing with her wooden zebu part of the living room.

DENISE'S grandma, Celia, had this Chinese jacket framed and used as decor.

ARCHITECT Gabby Ferreras created the elegant look.

DINING area is a favorite spot for the family. With perfect natural ventilation, it doesn't need air-conditioning.

Denise Laurel's hilltop refuge

From page J1

THE SIGHT of this old structure, what made the Laurels decide to buy the property.

it I bought the property!"

Celia recalls: "The view impressed us. So the first house we were going to build. He said he wanted it done right away, while we were still strong and our bones were not creaking yet."

Day passed away in 2004 and Bobbsey designed the house. Gabby Ferreras and industrial designer Rodney Gonzaga were hired to create the house's "rustic country" look.

Mrs. Celia plans to build "a museum in the middle of the garden" as a tribute to her late husband.

DENISE J.

CORONANDEL screen brought in Beijing by Denise's grandfather Don Laurel in 1936.

THE BEDROOM that Denise's uncle Corey used to sleep in.

THE CHINAS brought from the old house on Shaw Boulevard

OUR HOST at the main door, behind her a chest of drawers in Islamic design.

THE LATE Vice President liked to meditate in this chapel.

DRIFTWOOD console designed by namesake Rodney Gonzaga

Denise Laurel's...

From page J1

band. "We loved plants and nature. I dedicate this to him. He study room [at the Laurel compound on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City] was dismantled and brought here. I want to showcase my husband's memorabilia, his life as vice president...and his service to the country."

There is so much left to do, she adds. "We still have to transfer some artifacts here and then create a video wall." Celia hopes to open the museum to the public in November, Dey's birth month. She has commissioned an architect from the University of the Philippines to put together and preserve Dey's book collection.

Also on the drawing board is an educational park, "where students can visit to learn all about nature." Part of the property has been reserved for an outdoor auditorium. "My family loves parties often and there's always singing and dancing," Celia explains. "Since we already sold the Shaw Boulevard property, we can party on the small area occupied by here towards the museum."

Celia says her husband would always drive to the plant to meditate. He even had a chapel built beside the house. "For a while (the man-in-charge) of the plant was gone, and I realized I had to preserve his memory."

Besides sites she has too many fond memories of the place to choose just one. "All of us kids loved the living area. It is filled with big Thai pillows. Lolo made us remove our shoes when we played on the carpeted floor. We would play with the old chairs; rooms that our grandparents brought from different Asian countries. I remember playing 'Chopsticks' on the piano."

Her favorite picture of Papa Dey, Denise says, was actually taken here. "He is in his khaki polo, jeans and comfy shoes. It is not the usual Papa Dey who was very formal. In the picture, he stands near the easter, holding his cigar. His German Shepherd is beside him."

E-mail the author: mevw@inquirer.com.ph

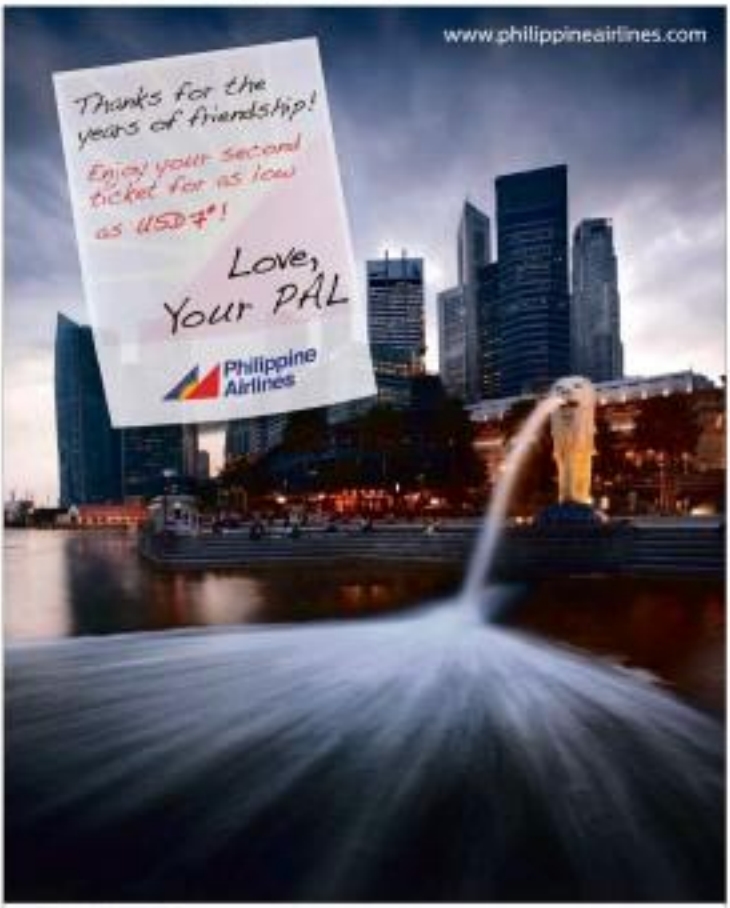
DENISE'S grandmother's bonbon cabinets shipped from the United States

ANTIQUE hand-painted plate on the kitchen wall

BOOKS and souvenirs on the kitchen shelves

CHINESE antiques on a corner table

DENISE beside a sculpture of Maria Makiling by Macoocol Artist Guillermo Tolentino



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'The Dead Celebrity Cookbook': Yummy

LOS ANGELES—Katharine Hepburn made mean brownies, Liz Taylor adored shakes with avocado and mushrooms. The gastronomic secrets of stars past are being served up in a new book. And they taste good.

"The Dead Celebrity Cookbook," just published in the United States, reveals a smorgasbord of top dishes from stirars of yesteryears, whose films and songs are all know, but whose favorite recipes have, until now, remained mostly a mystery.

The fruit of a decade-and-a-half of passionate research, the book "was a labor of love," its author Frank DeCaro told AFP. "I've been collecting for about 15 years. I would go in flea markets, I would see ethnic I ended up with so many of these that I had to pick and choose," he said.

"I would buy everything, museum that came with microwave ovens, or Ryan branded out in supermarkets in the '80s, recipes attributed to specific celebrities."

"I hope, I like to believe, that they were in fact truly their recipes," he added.

The volume includes recipes from more than 140 stars of music, cinema, and television, ranging from Michael Jackson's sweet potato pie and Frank Sinatra's barbecued lamb to Brenda Swayze's chicken pie.

"In the past, celebrities used to always be asked to provide recipes... that was part of public relations. They would offer up recipes to benefit cookbooks or magazine articles," explained DeCaro.

"They were published all over the place," added the writer, formerly a film critic on US television.

"These recipes come from a time when we didn't know everything there was to know about every celebrity. They were more in control of their image, and when they chose a recipe I think it said something about them."

DeCaro decided only to include recipes chosen by celebrities who are already dead, partly because he hopes his work will help people rediscover forgotten stars.

'Key apart'

"I get very upset when people say 'Oh, it was better my time' or 'I wasn't born when it was on air.' If Lady Gaga can know who Liberace is, no can you. It's good to know what came before," he said.

The other reason he focused on dead artists was because present day celebrities hardly ever talk about their favorite food.

"I think part of it was that people cooked at home. To be a home cook was something people were proud of, they knew they could connect with their fans that way," said DeCaro.

"But I think also that when you have chefs who become celebrities, you don't really need an actor to share his kitchen activity with us. The chefs themselves are the draw now, when it comes to food, so you don't really care what the cast of 'Glee' is cooking, who's tired of it naked on and."

Now, the reader can gorge on pianist Liberace's sticky buns, Ann Miller's "terrific" lemon-ice silhouette, and Hepburn's brownies.

"If you have an Oscar party, you will get an award for serving Katharine Hepburn's brownies. They are the best brownies ever. There are just a ton of recipes out there here, but the ones that are out there are really good," he added.

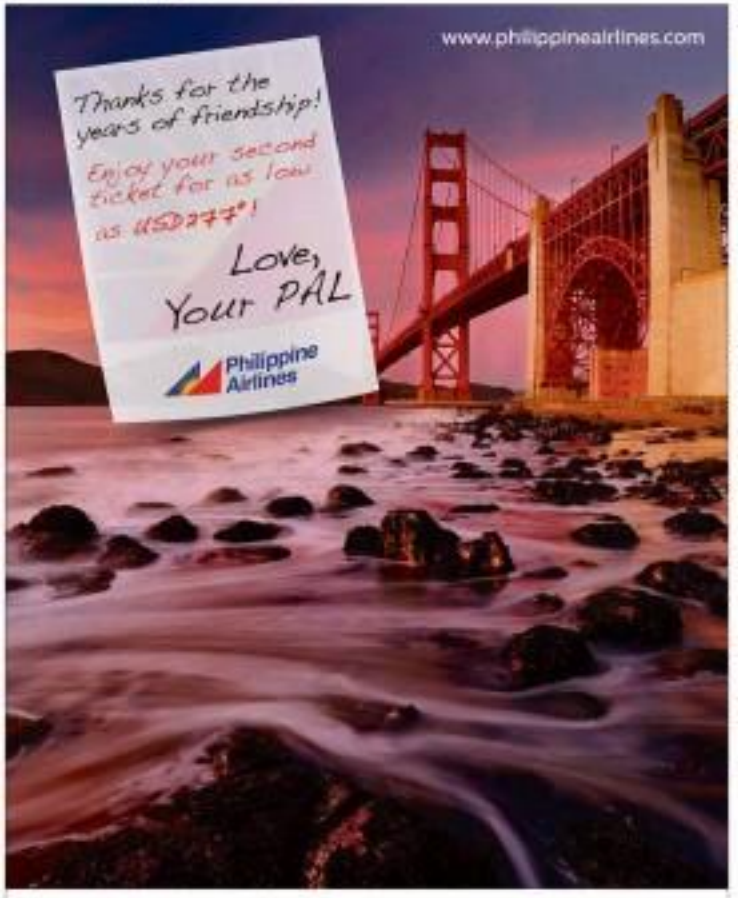
And the least favorite celebrity recipe?

"Isabel Sanford's Boston chicken," he replied without hesitation, referring to the actress who played the mother in the American sitcom "The Jeffersons" in the 1970s and early '80s.

"It's chicken with Boston dressing, spices, jam and onions, all in the same dish. I'm not convinced those three things should be mixed and put on a chicken." AFP

KATHARINE Hepburn's Brownies

FRANK Sinatra's Barbequed lamb



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JOHN ODULIO

I READ "Buying In: The Secret Strategies Smarter Who Win Big and Who We Are" by Rob Walker. I was hooked. I'm interested in advertising before. It's a good read. It shows the fundamentals of the ad business. It explains why some campaigns are successful. For example, it shows how a Japanese store that has a small can named Hello Kitty as mascot became the multi-billion empire Sanrio. I first learned about the book online. I recommend it to people in the advertising world. It's helpful to those fan folks, too. It teaches you how to package and market yourself.
Rapunzel San Diego, Jr.

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3. Provide administrative support to the Protection Unit;
4. Coordinate with other operations including Health, Safety and Security;
5. Coordinate with other operations including Health, Safety and Security;
6. Assist in Resettlement;
7. Work closely with Data Management Assistant;
8. Perform other duties required.

Minimum Qualifications and Professional Experience Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Business Administration or related field;
- Minimum 2 years job experience (relevant in the country);
- Strong organizational and communication skills;
- Strong English writing skill;
- Knowledge of local languages;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Powerpoint, Microsoft Access and Internet;

Vacancy Notice No. 130813 — Position No.: 100393
Post Title: Field Safety Assistant — Post Level: SL-1
Post Duration: 1 Year Fixed Appointment — Post Location: Cotabato
Closing Date: 01 March 2013

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide technical input to Office with advice on community based matters relevant to the UNHCR Operation and level of staff safety within 6 persons of Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur and Cotabato;
2. Liaise with relevant partners and counterparts with local law enforcement agencies, non-governmental and other relevant stakeholders as necessary;
3. Coordinate with relevant partners and counterparts with local law enforcement agencies, non-governmental and other relevant stakeholders as necessary;
4. Undertake field missions to assess the safety of the environment and to provide as appropriate security in cooperation with UNHCR field activities and operations;
5. Prepare timely reports including emergency and recommendations, assessments, advisories, and feedback to Head of Office and staff on all security matters;
6. Provide staff and implementing partners with security advice, briefings, and training as appropriate in the operations;
7. Any other reasonable duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the immediate supervisor Head of UNHCR Office.

Qualification Requirements:

Education and Skills: Completion of secondary school. Undergraduate degree in a relevant field (Criminology, training in investigation/police or military academy) and exposure to the provision of security/policing services in civil society are desirable. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Ability to analyze security issues in the field, develop operational responses, formulate training and counselling skills are required. Responsible communications skills, strong interpersonal and negotiation skills, ability to work under pressure and to deal with people from different backgrounds and cultures are extremely required.

Experience: Minimum of 5-10 years of professional experience in progressively responsible functions in a National Law Enforcement Agency and/or National Security Force, international military, police experience in a related field (e.g. legal, research, analysis...) may be considered. Up to date knowledge of the operational environment in Mindanao, including knowledge of the dynamics of conflict in ARMM is an asset. A proven ability to deal with multiple tasks in a responsive and service-oriented manner in demanding working conditions and with often tight deadlines is also required. Experience in working with refugees and IDPs, and conducting UN trainings and briefings is further required.

Languages: Excellent knowledge in English and Tagalog. Knowledge of Maguindanao or other Mindanao dialect is desirable.

Interested candidates may submit their application to the following address:

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UNHCR
6th Floor, BC Corporate Plaza, 788 Aurelio Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
Philippines, Manila, 0-1229 (1229)
Fax: (632) 8187-0074 to 75

Application will not be acknowledged. Only the successful candidate will be notified of the selection/interview.

Only Philippine Nationals may be considered.

For more information on Mindanao/Cotabato area:

Visit: www.unhcr.org

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6th Floor, BC Corporate Plaza, 788 Aurelio Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
Philippines, Manila, 0-1229 (1229)
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THE WORLD BANK

FINANCE ASSISTANT

The Finance Assistant (FA) is a member of a country team within the Loan Operations team (OPSLA or OPSLN) in the Loan Department (OPSLD). The FA provides technical support to the Finance Analysts (FMs) and reports to the Regional Center Team Leader for the assigned portfolio. Incumbent FAs gain progressive experience to handle diverse and moderately complex issues related to their day-to-day work. The FA also contributes to various country team responsibilities, such as disbursement transaction and analysis, portfolio management and capacity building. The FAs play an important role in ensuring the financial accountability of borrowers and recipients, specifically that loan proceeds are used for the purposes intended and are eligible in accordance with the World Bank policies and procedures. In addition, the FA may be requested to contribute to Department or corporate initiatives. The assignment will be fixed-appointment for a period of 2 years with possibility of renewal.

Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or Business, certified public accountant will be an advantage; and 4 years of relevant experience in portfolio management, project implementation, accounting, auditing and/or contract management;
- Ability to communicate effectively, in writing and orally, in English. Fluency in other languages such as Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, etc. will be an advantage;
- Basic knowledge Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), internal controls procedures and financial management;
- Ability to manage relatively complex tasks, deal with rapidly shifting priorities, provide professional support to senior staff and deliver against ambitious deadlines;
- Committed team player with demonstrated ability to effectively work in a collaborative, flexible and open organizational boundaries and in a multi-dimensional and multi-functional work program.

Details concerning # FA/PMU are available in the World Bank Careers website: www.worldbank.org/careers. All applications must be submitted through this website. The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

Closing date is March 31, 2013.

FINANCE ANALYST

The Finance Analyst (FM) is a member of a country team within the Loan Operations team (OPSLA or OPSLN) in the Loan Department (OPSLD). The FM provides technical support to the Finance Assistants and reports to the Regional Center Team Leader and Finance Officer for the assigned portfolio. Incumbent FMs gain progressive experience to handle diverse and moderately complex issues related to their day-to-day work. The FM also contributes to various country team responsibilities, such as disbursement transaction and analysis, portfolio management and capacity building. The FMs play an important role in ensuring the financial accountability of borrowers and recipients, specifically that loan proceeds are used for the purposes intended and are eligible in accordance with the World Bank policies and procedures. In addition, the FM may be requested to contribute to Department or corporate initiatives. The assignment will be fixed-appointment for a period of 2 years with possibility of renewal.

Selection Criteria:

- Certified public accountant and Master's degree preferred in Accounting, Finance or Business and 7 years of relevant experience in portfolio management, project implementation, accounting, auditing and/or contract management;
- Ability to manage complex tasks, deal with rapidly shifting priorities, provide professional support to senior staff and deliver against ambitious deadlines;
- Ability to communicate effectively, in writing and orally, in English. Fluency in other languages such as Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, etc. is an added advantage;
- Relevant knowledge Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), internal controls procedures and financial management;
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills with demonstrated ability to interpret data, assess issues, develop sound recommendations, and formulate workable measures;
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to speak persuasively and explain portfolio and procedural guidelines effectively, in writing and orally, including situations requiring negotiation with Borrower counterparts;
- Excellent team player with a strong client and results orientation, capable of working within a multicultural environment but also independently, with minimum supervision;
- Willingness to travel on short-term assignments.

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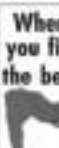

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- Should have at least 3 years teaching experience and at least 2 years administrative experiences in the academic environment or teaching degree based on curriculum
- Knowledgeable in curriculum planning, development and evaluation

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- Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology or equivalent
- Preferably a Supervisor, at least 2 years experience supervising in Human Resource(s) or equivalent

CORPORATE PLANNING RESEARCH MANAGER
- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Statistics or equivalent
- At least 2 years experience in any or combination of marketing, studies and business planning

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- 1 to 3 years solid background/experience in audit

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- 1 to 3 years background experience in Audit
- Knowledgeable in Audit Operating Systems

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- Preferably a Supervisor, at least 1 year experience in Finance, General/Cost Accounting or equivalent

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants may apply

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- Bachelor of Laws, Bar Passer (Legal Counsel post)
- At least 1 year related work experience

DOCUMENTATION SPECIALIST
- Bachelor's degree in IT/Computer Related fields
- With experience in Microsoft Office 97-2003, 2008, Windows XP Installation and administration
- Good technical skills in programming language and technical problem resolution

SOFTWARE SUPPORT ENGINEER
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- At least 1 year experience in IT-Computer Software or equivalent

GRAPHIC/LAYOUT ARTIST
- Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts major in Advertising Arts/ Graphic Arts/Mass Communication or equivalent
- At least 2 years related work experience
- Talented in computer Graphic Design, Layout and Web Designing
- Knowledge in Graphic Arts Reproduction, Retouching, Pre-Press Preparation, Color Separation and Web Designing an advantage

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
- Bachelor's degree in any business course or equivalent
- At least 1 year experience in related field

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (POWER PLANT)
PROCESS ENGINEERS
PROJECT ENGINEERS
PROJECT CONTROL ENGINEERS
PIPING ENGINEERS (POWER PLANT)
SCHEDULE ENGINEERS/ MINING ENGINEERS
WELDING ENGINEERS

FACTORY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT: MEGA SUNGA POBLACION, MA. NOZAGARAY

CIVIL ENGINEERS (2)
INSTRUMENTS ENGINEERS
QC INSPECTORS (ELECTRICAL)
QC INSPECTORS (MECHANICAL)
WELDING SPECIALISTS (2)

FACTORY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT: MEGA SUNGA POBLACION, MA. NOZAGARAY

ASPHALT PLANT OPERATORS
ENGINEER MECHANICS
PLANT ELECTRICIANS
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
MASON
WELDERS
DIESEL MECHANICS
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS
ASSISTANT TRUCK MECHANICS
ASSISTANT HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS
ASSISTANT PLANT MECHANICS
ASSISTANT WELDERS
ASSISTANT ELECTRICIANS
ASSISTANT MASON
ASSISTANT TRUCK MECHANICS
ASSISTANT HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS
ASSISTANT PLANT MECHANICS
ASSISTANT WELDERS
ASSISTANT ELECTRICIANS
ASSISTANT MASON

FACTORY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT: MEGA SUNGA POBLACION, MA. NOZAGARAY

WELDING ENGINEERS
QC INSPECTORS (CIVIL)
QC INSPECTORS (MECHANICAL)
QC INSPECTORS (PIPING)
QC INSPECTORS (ELEC. I)

FACTORY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT: MEGA SUNGA POBLACION, MA. NOZAGARAY

FIELD MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (PIPING)
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
WELD ENGINEERS
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
INSTRUMENTS SPECIALISTS (MARINE, PLANT TECHNICIANS)
SENIOR QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEERS (PIPING)

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Apply online at apply.rrjm.com

Autism Resource Centre (Singapore)
POEA Accreditation No. 100402Z
and
Autism Association (Singapore)
POEA Accreditation No. 101205Z

The Autism Resource Centre (Singapore) (ARC) (www.autism.org.sg) and the Autism Association (Singapore) (www.autism.association.org.sg) are two of the most active non-profit organizations in Singapore, dedicated to support individuals with autism and help them lead meaningful lives in society.

Pathlight School (www.pathlight.org.sg), started by ARC in the fall autism-focused school offering a blend of Singapore mainstream academics and life skills training to students with autism and other related learning disorders.

Eden School (www.edenschool.org.sg), started by ARC, offers a quality education for students with autism who require more intensive learning environments and who are assessed to not have aptitude for a mainstream curriculum. It offers a unique blend of Functional Academics, Pre-Vocational and other Enrichment Life Skills.

Due to the rapid expansion to serve more students, the two organizations invite people who share a passion, commitment and competence to join our establishing the team entrusted to us!

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER – 20 Vacancies (MALE ONLY)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

Pre-requisites:
- Atleast 2 years of relevant work experience in the fields of Special Education, Teaching, Nursing and Psychology
- Atleast a Degree from a reputable and recognized educational institution in the fields mentioned above
- Experience in working with children / youths with autism is preferred
- Fresh graduates with good and relevant academic qualifications will be considered

Other Requirements:
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English
- Meticulous and good organization skills
- Compassionate and patient personality
- Team player and able to work independently
- Self-motivated and keen to develop professionally
- Desire to learn and serve the autism community

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Developing a differentiated curriculum combining functional academics, life skills and vocational skills
- Delivering lessons according to combination of pull-out / push-in and in-class support, fun and autism friendly
- Creating a conducive environment for meaningful learning
- Implementing and monitoring progress of students' Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals
- Collaborating effectively with parents to generalize skills learnt in school

NOTE:
- All applications are subject to comprehensive and stringent selection process and only shortlisted Candidates will be notified
- Basic starting salaries/allowances are fair and competitive salary offered. No allowances given
- Estimated Employment Commencement is 15 June 2012

Apply in person and bring the following:
Updated Resume, Copy of Original Passport, Employment and School Certificates
(2 resume each) and 4 pcs. 2x2 pictures with white background

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Unit 803, EDSC Condo. I-4th Barangka Dr., Cor. Tektangere Sts., Mandaluyong City
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Email cv to **employee_press@yahoo.com**
or
Apply in person. Drop your resumes to:
3rd Flr. #94 Gateway Plaza,
Pinatubo, Mandaluyong City
Telephone No. (02) 531-4562 to 531-4564

A Logistics Company in Metro Manila is looking for the following applicants:

A. Sales Supervisor
(Male or Female) college graduates with at least 5 years experience in selling consumer goods, has an analytical mind, leadership skills, trustworthy

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(Male or Female) college graduates, with at least 2 years experience in warehouse management, can work for long hours, has leadership skills, trustworthy

C. Encoder
(Male or Female) Fresh graduates encouraged, can work with minimal supervision, trustworthy

Interested applicants may email their resume to: **hrdepartment@gmail.com**

Logistics Engineering Consultancy
is now hiring!
- Project Architect - (min. 1-2 years exp.)
- Civil Engineer - (min. 1-2 years exp.)

Submit resumes to the attention of:
Engineer Jeremy Sotto
Fax No. 810-1111

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722-1144 or 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 920-2071 to 920-2077 / Telefax: 924-7691
director@nmis.da.gov.ph
www.nmis.da.gov.ph
e-mail: complaints@nmis.da.gov.ph

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

In compliance with R.A. 7041
As of February 2012

The National Meat Inspection Services wishes to announce the following vacancies:

(1) "Supervising Meat Control Officer – SG 11 (Code – SVM03)

Place of Assignment – nationwide
Item No. – SMC-ASPET-VM-SVM03-1998
Education – Graduate of Veterinary Medicine
Experience – 5 yrs (1 mo. in veterinary science and public health work) or 1 mo. experience with supervisory experience
Training – 80 hrs of relevant training
Eligibility – RA 1080 (Veterinarian)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Directs and supervises the implementation of policy guidelines, rules and regulations on proper meat inspection, condemnation, disposition of slaughter animals/ carcasses/products, prevention of meat contamination, use and maintenance of meat inspection facilities, equipment and tools; enforcement of sanitary/ personal hygiene and safety measures in workers and plant/slaughterhouse premises; conduct investigation of violations of meat inspection laws and perform other related work as may be assigned from time to time.

(2) Meat Inspector III – SG 11 (Code – MI3)

Place of Assignment – various regions
Item No. – MAR-ASPET-MT11-01-1998
MAR-ASPET-MT11-02-1998
Education – Graduate of Veterinary Medicine
Experience – Completion of two years studies in college
Training – 40 hrs of relevant training
Eligibility – Career Service (Sub-professional) First Level Eligibility

Duties and Responsibilities:

Inspects or verifies carcass documents (shipping permit, veterinary health certificate, certificate of ownership and/or transfer, etc.) of meat animals and/or meat products; examines and inspects meat animals and/or meat products for the presence of diseases and parasites; examines and palpates certain carcasses, organs and parts; enforces the human slaughtering techniques or practices on food animals to establish sanitary facilities for the production of meat; assists through the enforcement of sanitary and proper meat handling, slaughtering, etc.; in slaughterhouse, meat, fish/poultry and meat handling establishments; inspects the personal hygiene and health of the men at the plant; affixes serving, slaughtered meat and fish/poultry stamps; prepares and preserves specimen parasites, meat and animal diseases; prepares reports on the activities performed; and performs other duties of similar complexity, including the proper disposal of condemned carcasses, organs and parts as upon lawful rendering of no affected by any dangerous diseases; if not, directs the proper disposal of the same; assists in the process with the application of lime, accompanied properly, as prescribed. Sports forms of NMIS and submitted them regularly at the end of the month; reports immediately any violations of meat inspection laws, rules and regulations; PERFORMS OTHER DUTIES AS MAY BE ASSIGNED FROM TIME TO TIME.

Inspects for abolitions to the theories of the Natural Meat Inspection Service; assists in the enforcement of sanitary and proper meat handling, slaughtering, etc.; in establishments; conducts and/or assists in animal diseases surveillance work among slaughterhouse animals kept in holding pens and storage of the slaughterhouse; and performs other related duties as may be required from time to time.

Interested persons are requested to visit http://nmis.gov.ph for more information on the details of the vacant positions and application form. Photocopy of the following documents are to be submitted together with the completed application form: 1) Transcript of records; 2) Diploma; 3) Certificate of eligibility.

Application form and documentary requirements must be mailed to: **PERSONNEL OFFICER, NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE, NA COMPOUND, VISAYAS AVE., DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY 1101. (Ang Reference Code:** All applications must be received on or before **April 6, 2012.** Qualified applicants for the next date of the selection process shall be notified by mail/e-mail.

CSC Resolution No. 1000438 dated August 23, 2010

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For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

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If you are a passionate and committed professional and want to make a lasting difference for children, the world's leading children's rights organization needs the human resources.

Consultant: Strategy and Plan of Action for Micronutrient Supplementation 2012-2016

To work with the Department of Health National Center for Disease Prevention and Control in the formulation of the micronutrient supplementation strategy and plan of action for 2012-2016

Duties and responsibilities:

- Experience to design, development, planning & assessment of strategies, protocols in place for nutrition & health interventions.
- Must be more than 5 yrs experience in micronutrient deficiency control.
- Experience in collaboration with governmental structures, particularly the NGO, international agencies, UNICEF.
- Experience in micronutrient powder strategy in planning highly desirable.
- Experience in supply of maternal micronutrient many years ago.

SUPPLIER'S TERMS OF REFERENCE IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST THROUGH THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW. Interested applicants can submit confirmation of attending their no-obligation presentations on the Process Matrix from individuals that meet the minimum requirements as stated in the Terms of Reference. Please send your resume and cover letter and expected salary rate to: **Dr. Bernard Bulos, M.D.** at email address: **bbulos@unicef.org** or fax number **(02) 901-0100 local 3000** on or before **March 23, 2012**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for exam / interview. Unicef is an equal opportunity employer and only Filipino citizens are qualified to apply. Unicef does not charge any fee at any stage of the recruitment process and does not entertain any solicitation. Unicef reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACTOR"
to undertake the:
"MDGf 2030 Endline Survey"

For interested CONTRACTORS, please log on to UNICEF website, http://www.unicef.org/philippines/ph_tenders.html for the RFP and the "Terms of Reference". For queries, please email: rosevillar@unicef.org or philippines@unicef.org or call (02) 8901-0100 local 3000 during the posting of the "RFP/TOR". Deadline for proposal submission is **30 March 2012**.

unicef
unite for children

If you are a passionate and committed professional and want to make a lasting difference for children, the world's leading children's rights organization needs the human resources.

Consultant: Harmonization of Maternal & Young Child Nutrition Integrated Training Modules

To review, update and harmonize the country's training modules on maternal nutrition, infant and young child nutrition (IYCN), using 2nd training (IMCI) and policies, comprehensive management behaviour and young child nutrition (MYNN) integrated training modules.

Expected Qualifications:

- Experience in design, development and assessment of training curricula.
- Experience in collaboration with governmental structures, international agencies, NGOs.
- Knowledge of maternal nutrition and infant and young child feeding practices. Must have MCGH counseling and training experience in participation to service performance, assessment, training with no on-south.

CONSULTANT'S TERMS OF REFERENCE IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST THROUGH THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW. Interested applicants can submit confirmation of attending their no-obligation presentations on the Process Matrix from individuals that meet the minimum requirements as stated in the Terms of Reference. Please send your resume and cover letter and expected salary rate to: **Dr. Bernard Bulos, M.D.** at email address: **bbulos@unicef.org** or fax number **(02) 901-0100 local 3000** on or before **March 23, 2012**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for exam / interview. Unicef is an equal opportunity employer and only Filipino citizens are qualified to apply. Unicef does not charge any fee at any stage of the recruitment process and does not entertain any solicitation. Unicef reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

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Female, 25-30 years old. Graduate in Accounting. Excellent verbal and written communication skills. With at least 2 years experience in accounting related work. Has keen eye on details. Can handle both accounts receivable and accounts payable-Auditing background an advantage.

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Male or Female not more than 27 years old. Graduate of Business Administration, Sales and Marketing or equivalent. Must be a highly motivated individual who is not to contribute to key initiatives within a growing computer IT magazine. Must have the ability in prospecting for new advertisers, executing new leads and set site meetings with prospective advertisers.

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Female not more than 30 years old. Graduate of Marketing, Sales or Advertising or Mass Communication. With at least 2 years experience in handling bi-media events, marketing activities. Must be responsible and have keen initiative. Must have the capability to implement projects with good results. Must be good in organizing and delegation. Team leader.

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Female not more than 27 years old. Graduate of Mass Communication, Advertising, Sales and Marketing or equivalent. Must be a highly flexible individual who is capable of coordinating with external groups of people efficiently and effectively. Must be willing and have keen sense of responsibility and initiative. With at least 1 year's working experience in this same job nature.

MOTOR RIDER/COLLECTOR

Candidate must be at least college level. 5 years of working experience in the media/telco equivalent this position. Must possess a valid professional driver's license. Must be familiar with Metro Manila areas. Male more than 30 years old.

Should you be interested, please fax call 3675000 or 3675006 and ask for Ruth for an interview schedule or email us resume to: jobs01@philippinegazette.com.ph

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Keppel Philippines Marine

Keppel Philippines Marines, Inc. (KPMI) is part of the 30-year strong international network of companies owned by Keppel Offshore & Marine (KOM), one of the world's largest offshore and marine groups based in Singapore. The strategic location of the shipyards enable the group to serve regions throughout Asia Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, Caspian Sea, Middle East and Europe.

With the growing offshore and marine industry in the Philippines, KPMI is looking for suitable applicants for the following positions and willing to be assigned in Keppel Batangas or Keppel Subic.

PLANNING MANAGER
HULL AND MECHANICAL PIPING ENGINEERING MANAGER

- Degree in Mechanical Engineering (i.e. Naval Architecture, Mechanical, Civil or Marine Engineering), preferably have passed the relevant professional board exams
- Computer literate in knowledge in maximum with excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Must have at least 5-10 years relevant experience in the same capacity preferably in shipyard environment

4 FINANCE OFFICERS

- 23-28 years old, Graduate of Accountancy
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant/Certified Internal Auditor
- Preferably with 0-5 years experience in external auditing and/or
- Computer literate with excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Efficient, analytical and can work under pressure with minimum supervision

Successful and qualified applicants will undergo the three (3) year extensive Financial Management Program. The objectives of this said program are as follows:

1. To develop Finance Officers' (FOs) to fill up positions locally and support operation overseas.
2. To provide Finance FOs with technical, commercial and people skills to support KPMI, Keppel Subic and Keppel Batangas and in overseas yards.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Graduate of Accountancy, Business Management or Engineering courses. Board passer of respective discipline is an advantage.
- Computer literate with excellent communication skills both oral and written.

Applicants are requested to submit or email their comprehensive resume together with transcript of records, diploma and recent 2 x 2 photo not later than **30 March 2012**. Only shortlisted applicants will be advised for an interview.

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Unit 3-B, Duaron Space I Building
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SALES OFFICER

Requirements:

- Degree – engineering or architecture advantageous
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- Initiative, Extrovert, Computer Literate
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Kindly send your resume to: **northinc@pldtdsl.net**

Or visit us at: North International, Inc.
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Telephone No. 890-3001 to 03

Al Nisr Publishing LLC

COPY EDITOR

Gulf News is looking for a copy editor to join their Universal copy Desk in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The role involves editing for the daily newspaper to ensure that it is free of spelling, grammar and factual errors, with lively headlines of captivating captions.

The successful candidate will have an exceptional grasp of the English language, an eagle eye for detail, the ability to excel under pressure, factual general knowledge, and good diplomatic skills. A sense of humour is not required, but may be to your advantage.

Applications should reach the below address no later than 5th April 2012

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
ORGANIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT
Al Nisr Publishing LLC
E-mail: [illegible]
Telephone: [illegible]

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Applicants:

- must have at least 2 years experience
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- Knowledge of Financial Statements, Taxation, Labor Laws
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- Will initially require the Subic base

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- College graduate male or female between 21 and 25 years old
- Must have 1 year experience in newspaper / publication
- With at least 2 years experience in selling and preparing/producing coupon
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A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

- must have passed the Bar Exams (under the new requirements)
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- graduate of U.P., Ateneo and San Beda preferred
- must be willing to render overtime work
- resident of Quezon City preferred
- Tel. no. and e-mail address of the applicant

Please apply in person with the complete bio-data and fill up form at:

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- College graduate, at least 25 years old
- With at least 2 years work experience preferably in sales & marketing
- Able to do assembled functions, organize schedules and filing
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- Excellent in oral & written communication

Bring resume, photo and transcript to:
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F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Pasig City

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Look for Ms. Tin, Lucille, Ms. Phoebe or Ms. Mitz
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Mich & Myl nails

- MANAGEMENT – female, 18-25 years old with minimum of 2 years experience in nail care and customer service
- NAIL TECHNICIAN / TECHNICIAN – female, 18-25 years old, with experience
- NAIL TECHNICIAN TRAINEE – 21-25 years old
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Only those who passed will be contacted.

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female, graduate, female, 22-30 years old, Accounting/Accounting exp preferred. Computer literate.

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Single/non graduate, male or female, 21-25 years old.

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Male graduate, 20-25 years old, Hardworking, trustworthy, & presentable. Must provide clearances.

CALL: 556-0027/872-4660
SEND RESUME TO:
genelen2000@yahoo.com

NREA LENTEN RITES IN PORAC, PAMPANGA

IN OBSERVANCE OF Lenten season, the National Real Estate Association (NREA) will conduct its annual Holy Week Pilgrim, an spiritual retreat on March 23-24, 2012 in Porac, Pampanga.

NREA Founder Jose "Ka Pepe" V. Mandal said that association officers, members, employees and friends will go on overnight vigil featuring the story of the passion of Christ, in consideration of His suffering.

Aside from this, the occasion will start with a "welcoming" feasting of the indigenous lunar wedding near the "Unknown Statue" atop a ridge in Barangay Cloriadvis, Porac, Pampanga.

This is following the blessing of the newly constructed amalaro chapel in the shrine grounds, and the celebration of a Thanksgiving Mass, to be offered by Fr. Collective Parish Priest, Porac, Pampanga.

Led by Walter C. Jadoc, executive chairperson, the event includes member Luis Aguila and Jo Calleries, as co-chair persons, with Rev. Peter Cuevi, Edwin Aviles Virgil, bridge driver and Ruth Pulong, as members.

Among the special guests are Presidente Medina del Mar, Chairman Andy Mabalac, Mr. Alex Ting, BNP Benny Cabalzi, Member John Semmens, Ms. Ivy Edmonton and Ms. Kenne Valentino.

All NREA members, officers and friends may coordinate with the Secretariat for their donations of grocery items to be distributed to the indigent Aeta families.

Please call 812-3461 or 812-4461 for details.

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Telefax: (02) 552-8094

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
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435-1406
Fax 913-4060

SM Megamall, Mandaluyong Branch
635-6239
897-1259
Fax 635-6238

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Direct Line
528-8513
Trunkline 523-5578
loc. 335 or 336
Fax 528-6234

Australian Government AusAID

Australian AID

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EDUCATION VACANCIES

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), responsible for the delivery of one of the largest aid programs in the Philippines - Australia's Development Cooperation Program, is looking for two (2) highly-motivated and experienced personnel to fill the following Overseas-based employee positions in the Education team:

Portfolio Manager (PM)

The PM has online savings of coordinating and integrating AusAID's support in the area of basic education in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BEAM-ARMM), and the social protection program. The PM plays a key role in engaging internal and external stakeholders on issues and policies relevant to the sector, leading program design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation, and undertaking strategic analytical tasks. The position will lead and manage a team, and will report to the Counsellor.

Senior Program Officer (SPO)

The SPO will assist the Portfolio Manager in the delivery of bilateral and co-financed grant activities and contribute to AusAID's corporate goals and objectives. The SPO will provide support and advice to the Portfolio Manager on the development of new initiatives, and implementation of programs, as well as on policy issues relevant to the sector and to aid effectiveness.

Selection Criteria
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons, with Philippine nationals being encouraged to apply. Please note that these are Overseas Based (not Australian Public Service) positions. Further details on job descriptions and selection criteria for the positions can be accessed under job vacancies at the website: http://www.ahf.com/ahf_employ.jsp?vacancy=true

Conditions of Contract
The Positions are full-time, with ongoing employment contracts, based in AusAID's Manila office. The successful candidates are expected to commence as soon as possible. The commencing monthly salaries of PHp121,140 for PM and PHp91,833 for SPO per month are negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience, with entitlements to leave, comprehensive health insurance and other conditions.

Expressions of Interest
Interested applicants must address the selection criteria (maximum 2 pages) and detail suitability to perform the duties of the position including personal qualities, experience, skills and knowledge. All applications should be forwarded to HR Manager, Development Cooperation Section, Australian Embassy, 23/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200 or Manila@recruitment@ausaid.gov.au on or before Monday, 26 March 2012. Please include in your application a curriculum vitae of no more than 3 pages. Written referee reports are not required to be submitted at the time of application, although applicants should ensure that the names and contact details of two (2) work-related referees are supplied. Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Envelopes should be clearly marked "PM/SPO-Education/AUSAID". Due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted applicants will have their applications acknowledged.

AusAID is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and maintains a smoke-free working environment.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Publication of Vacant Positions
As of 01 March 2012

Planning and Management Service

(1) PLANNING OFFICER IV (SG-22)

Item No. : PL04-161-05
Education : Bachelor's degree relevant to the job
Experience : 3 years relevant experience
Training : 16 hours relevant training
Eligibility : CS Professional/2nd Level

All interested applicants may submit their application to the **Personnel Division, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila** or via e-mail at **personnel@doj.gov.ph**

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS

Position Title	No. of Vacancy	Salary Grade
Immigration Officer I	162	(SG-11)
Administrative Aide VI (Clerk III)	6	(SG-6)
Administrative Assistant III (Buyer III)	1	(SG-9)
Translator II	3	(SG-11)
Administrative Aide IV (Stenographer I)	7	(SG-6)
Administrative Aide IV (Clerk II)	3	(SG-6)
Administrative Aide III (Clerk I)	13	(SG-5)
Administrative Aide II (Messenger)	1	(SG-3)

For further details, please visit our official website at www.immigration.gov.ph

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- College Degree in Business or related disciplines
- 1-2 years experience in the printing industry, particularly in the field of sales, and knowledge about basic accounting, negotiation and communication skills
- Must be pro-active and can work under minimal supervision

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Fax No.: 534-4910
e-mail: hr@interconsolidated.com

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EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT TEST, INTERVIEW & SELECTION IN APRIL

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WORKING PEOPLE

Editor Jasmin Francis M. Balbuena

Power and women - be first, be smart or cheat?

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilio

DRIVE WEIRDEST HAD a one-in-46 chance of attending college in 1972. She had one-in-13,342,000 chance of becoming one of the first black TV anchorwomen, and one-in-267,483,000 chance of becoming the most powerful person on TV. Marie Fuller was Mildred's first woman CEO. Cathy Hurwitz led Lucent's turnaround, IPO and later became CEO of Hewlett-Packard, where her "settlement" pay package approximated $100 million.

The New York Times reported, "Ms. Pitman's appointment reduces to 497 the number of companies in the Fortune 500 whose chief executives are men." Yes, Virginia, there are still too many glass ceilings for women to break.

Home is the place

At the outset of the first industrial Revolution, men stepped to the factories. The woman's place was the home.

Dave Barry, the comedy columnist, observed, "The Baby Boomers started to realize that the man's income was not enough, and a family with two income earners soon became the norm. At first, women took more jobs than men. As we noted, nothing women have come a long way."

Research shows that among the Filipino women, the youth have shown a decided advantage over the men in certain aspects of education and occupations.

Women youth

In a recent study on "Gender Dimensions of School-to-Work Transition", Prof. Amarella Torres made some critical findings. "Women between ages 18 and 30 remain increasingly at an advantage to overtake education; their participation rate is 1.2. Urban women, especially in the National Capital Region, are more likely than males to finish high school and more to have attended college."

According to the same study, "in 2005-2006, women made up 59.46% of more than 1.7 million persons enrolled in TVET courses. Women trainees for vocational courses are more numerous in enterprise- and community-based settings, probably because this enables home-bound women greater flexibility to attend training."

The same study shows that among young women aged 15-19, 4.3% are out of school and schools, while 10-12% reached the tertiary level. Among women aged 20-24, some 43% finished high school, while 47-48% reached the tertiary level.

In contrast, of the young men aged 15-19, only 3.9% are in secondary schools, 5-6 % reached the tertiary level, while 40% are still in elementary grades. Among young men aged 20-24, the highest educational attainment of 30% is high school, while 24-25% reached the tertiary level.

Prof. Torres made the following conclusions, "Considerably more female than male young workers have a college degree — 46% of the employed women have a college degree, while 15% of the employed men have a college degree, while 15% of the employed men have similar credentials. Obtained findings among the youth replicate the educational profile found for the total labor force, with ages 15-65."

Despite this advantage, the man's income was not enough, and a family with two income earners soon became the norm. At first, women took more jobs than men. As we noted, nothing women have come a long way.

Research shows that among the Filipino women, the youth have shown a decided advantage over the men in certain aspects of education and occupations.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARCHITECTS

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"

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c/o Annie Callejo
at Tel. No. 515-34-00

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CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

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LOST

COMMERCIAL

HOUSE & LOT

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HOUSE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

MARKET SPACE FOR RENT

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APARTMENT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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BILLBOARD

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NLE LET EXAMS IN 1ST ATTEMPT

NLE LET EXAMS IN 1ST ATTEMPT

AUCTION SALE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

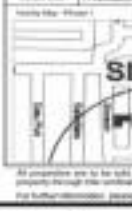
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

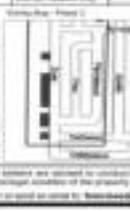
CAR LOAN

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

CTC No.	Location	Lot Area / Floor Area	Appraised Value	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
	North Olympus Subdivision, Phase 1 and 2, Barangay of Mandalagan, Bacolod City Phase 1 Lot 1 - 136-A-10 Lot 2 - 136-A-11 Lot 3 - 136-A-12 Phase 2 Lot 1 - 136-A-13 Lot 2 - 136-A-14 Lot 3 - 136-A-15	1,000 sq.m. Lot Only Phase 1 Lot 1 - 136-A-10 Lot 2 - 136-A-11 Lot 3 - 136-A-12 Phase 2 Lot 1 - 136-A-13 Lot 2 - 136-A-14 Lot 3 - 136-A-15	4,000,000.00 Phase 1 Lot 1 - 136-A-10 Lot 2 - 136-A-11 Lot 3 - 136-A-12 Phase 2 Lot 1 - 136-A-13 Lot 2 - 136-A-14 Lot 3 - 136-A-15	10:00 a.m. Office of the Clerk of Court of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities, City Hall, Capitol Road, Barangay Mandalagan, Bacolod City	





All properties are to be sold on "As-Is, Where-Is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through site verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction date.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 864-7777 | 864-7711 or send an email to: foreclosureauctions@integroup.com

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

CTC No.	Location	Type	Land Area / Floor Area	Appraised Value	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
	Block 2 Lot 1 Bermuda Road, Nevada Green Village, Phase 3, Barangay Bonyad, Dasmariñas, Cavite Technical Description "Situated in the Municipality of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the NORTH, by Lot 2 of Subdivision Plan (LRC) Psd-04-xxxxxx, being a portion of Lot 1 of Subdivision Plan (LRC) Psd-04-xxxxxx,

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City, Philippines

Administrative Order
No. 0002
Series of 2016

SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS ON STANDARD HANDLING OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, for handling and distribution of meat, slaughtering ought to observe hygienic practices, establishment of facilities and equipment that are sanitary and conducive to maintaining the wholesomeness and safety of meat and meat products intended for human consumption;

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of temperature and environmental control in the prevention of microbial growth and pathogenesis, the rule on Hygienic Practice for Meat Shops and Stalls, Slaughterhouses and Meat Establishments, Transport Vehicles and Refrigerated Warehouses (Section 21) was drafted and published separately;

WHEREAS, it is the mandate of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to regulate, control, supervise and monitor the entire meat industry covering the production, processing, marketing and distribution of meat and meat products to ensure the safety, wholesomeness and quality of meat and meat products for human consumption;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to establish standard rules and regulations for the proper handling of meat and meat products in order to safeguard the health of the consumers and to protect the meat industry from the economic losses brought about by the presence of diseased meat and meat products in the market;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to establish standard rules and regulations for the proper handling of meat and meat products in order to safeguard the health of the consumers and to protect the meat industry from the economic losses brought about by the presence of diseased meat and meat products in the market;

WHEREAS, the Consumer Act of the Philippines, RA No. 7394, mandates the Department of Agriculture to promote and protect the interest of consumers with respect to the quality, purity and price of agricultural products, and to protect against unreasonable risks of injury and damage to health and property, and to provide consumers with sufficient information to enable them to make intelligent choices;

WHEREAS, the Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (RA No. 9296) mandates the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the Code and for the implementation of food safety standards and to control meat for disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PIOQUINTO G. ALCASID, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture do hereby issue the following:

Section 1
SCOPE

This order covers the hygienic handling of meats slaughtered for meat, which shall in most instances, mean animals that meet all the criteria for the following:

1.1. Meat Species
1.2. Classification
1.3. Age and gender criteria
1.3.1. Calves
1.3.2. Young animals
1.3.3. Mature animals
1.3.4. Culled animals (Non-matured Animals)

Section 2
DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms as used in this order shall mean:

1. Contracting Authority – the official authority charged by the government with the conduct of procurement activities;
2. Goods, Supplies, Items, Equipments – slaughterhouses, meat processing plants, poultry processing plants, meat establishments with cold storages that are affiliated or registered with the Department of Agriculture and are accredited by the DOH;
3. Market Administrator/Operator – person in charge of the overall operations of the market, including the implementation of rules and regulations governing the conduct of trading;
4. Meat – refers to the edible part of the carcass including offal derived from food animal;
5. Meat Cutting Plant – those establishments wherein cutting or meat boning is undertaken and is compliant to Section 21 of DAO 2004-09 or any law that may be in force at the time, for the purpose of distribution and storage to retail establishments;
6. Meat Dealer – any person or entity engaged in the business of buying or selling meats and meat products in wholesale, retail or consignment, or which shall include, operate, manage or control any meat establishment, such as a meat shop, stall or market, or any part thereof, whether as owner, lessee, proprietor, manager or agent, and whether or not he/she himself/herself conducts, directly or indirectly, the business for which the establishment is used;
7. Meat Establishments – premises, such as slaughterhouses, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants, meat processing plants and cold storage warehouses wherein meat and meat products are handled, processed, stored or sold, and which are duly registered with the Department of Agriculture and accredited by the DOH or registered by the LGU's or such that is established by law;
8. Meat Vendor – a person directly handling meat during its slaughter, preparation, processing, transportation, storage, distribution and retail sale activities, with the aim of profit for the business;
9. Meat Inspection Certificate – is an official document issued by BAWC or LGU to the meat dealer, which shall be displayed conspicuously in the meat shop, stall or market for the sale of meat;
10. Meat Species – refers to the following species where meat is and shall be derived:
    1. Cattle
    2. Carabao
    3. Swine
    4. Goat
    5. Poultry
    6. Game animals
    7. Rabbit
    8. Other species as may be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture
    9. Horse
    10. Deer
    11. Crocodile
    12. Ostrich
    13. Others
    14. Any species as may be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION

Invitation to Bid
PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS GOODS

The Department of Agriculture (DA) thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to procure the following:

Qty	Name of Item(s)	ABC (PhP)	Non-Refundable Fee (PhP)
1 unit	Procurement of Various Medical Equipment	1,000,000.00	1,000.00
1 unit	Procurement of Various Medical Equipment and Supplies	1,000,000.00	1,000.00

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to cooperatives or associations duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and eligible to participate in Philippine Government Procurement Activities.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (i.e., from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm), Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from March 12, 2012 to April 12, 2012 (PHILGEPS) and the website of BAC, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

Bidding shall be conducted thru the following activities:

ID No.	Particular	Activity Date & Time	
		Pre-Bid Conference	Submission & Opening of Bids
1	Procurement of Various Medical Equipment	10 April 2012, 2:00 pm	12 April 2012, 2:00 pm
2	Procurement of Various Medical Equipment and Supplies	10 April 2012, 2:00 pm	12 April 2012, 2:00 pm

Bids must be delivered to the address stated below. Bidders must accompany their bid with the following:

Financial Bid Security	Amount (Non-Refundable Processing Fee for LWUA)
Cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank; Provided, however, that the amount of cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank if issued by a foreign bank.	Php 1,000.00
Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the insurance commissioner as authorized to issue such security.	Php 1,000.00
Bid security shall be valid for 120 calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.	

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

(Sgd.) ROSARIO J. HERRERA, MD, FPOG, FACS
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Special TWG

(PDI – March 28, 2012)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

JHMC

INVITATION TO BID FOR:

A. JANITORIAL SERVICES; AND
B. GARDENING SERVICES

1. The JOHNSON HOMES CEMENT CORPORATION (JHMC), through the 2012 JHMC Corporate Operating Budget, invites Eligible Bidders to bid for the following projects / descriptions:

Item No.	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Php)	Cost of Bidding Documents (Php)	Submission of Bidding Documents	Opening of Bids
1	Procurement for JANITORIAL SERVICES	750,000.00	1,000.00	April 11, 2012 @ 10:00 am	April 11, 2012 @ 10:01 am
2	Procurement for Gardening Services	250,000.00	500.00	April 11, 2012 @ 10:00 am	April 11, 2012 @ 10:01 am

Bids must be delivered on or before the ABC stated in paragraph 1 above and at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

2. JHMC now invites bids for the aforementioned Janitorial Services and Gardening Services. Delivery of the Services is required upon the receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within five years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equivalent contract is the performance by the prospective bidder, particularly, of janitorial and gardening services.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open, competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to cooperatives or associations duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and eligible to participate in Philippine Government Procurement Activities, pursuant to RA 9184 and its IRR.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from JHMC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (i.e., from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm), Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from March 12, 2012 to April 12, 2012 (PHILGEPS) and the website of JHMC, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

Bidding shall be conducted thru the following activities:

5. Bids must be delivered to the address stated below. Bidders must accompany their bid with the following:

Financial Bid Security	Amount (Non-Refundable Processing Fee for JHMC)
Cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank; Provided, however, that the amount of cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank if issued by a foreign bank.	Php 1,000.00
Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the insurance commissioner as authorized to issue such security.	Php 1,000.00
Bid security shall be valid for 120 calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.	

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

6. JHMC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

7. For further information, please refer to:

Mr. Evangeline T. Domingo
Procurement Officer/Head, BAC-Secretariat
Office 427, John Hay Management Corporation
Camp John Hay, Baguio City
Telefax: 074-444-0287
e-Mail: [illegible]@jhmc.com.ph
Website: www.jhmc.com.ph

(Sgd.) SETH ANGELO B. DIMAYUGA
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Mar. 14, 2012)

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24-HOUR HOTLINES

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City 1100, Philippines

January 30, 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No.28
Series of 2018

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS ON HYGIENIC HANDLING OF CHILLED, FROZEN AND THAWED MEAT IN MEAT MARKETS

WHEREAS, frozen meat previously destined for supermarkets, hotels and restaurants enters unhygienic distribution chain, ended up in large quantities in wet markets where there are no proper facilities and where meat vendors have no experience in handling frozen meats, thus creating food safety and decomposition problems and intervention by;

WHEREAS, the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CXC/CP 58-2005) recommends guidelines for the adequate practices and equipment for the chilling and for freezing and storage of meat;

WHEREAS, there are no specific product standards for chilled, frozen and thawed foods of Codex and reference on specific food standards for the handling of these foods of meat hereby;

WHEREAS, regulations exist for the temperature control of frozen, thawed and chilled foods and meats in certain developed countries and have been implemented by these countries for a considerable period of time;

WHEREAS, the Philippines as a precautionary measure has decided to base its regulations for the handling of chilled frozen and thawed meats on the regulations of these countries;

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase the awareness of meat traders, meat market owners/administrators, meat vendors and they consuming public on conditions for the safe handling of meats and the misbehaviour of meat safety and hence on associated risks to consumers;

WHEREAS, the Consumer Act of the Philippines (RA No. 7394) requires the Department of Agriculture to protect the consumers from hazardous products and to regulate the use of agriculture in support the protection of the public against unreasonable risks of injury and hazards to health; the Local Government Code (RA No. 7160) requires the provincial, city and municipal governments to regulate the preparation and sale of foodstuff such as meat for public consumption and the Code of Sanitation of the Philippines (Presidential Decree No. 856) provides for the sanitary requirements in the operation of markets;

WHEREAS, the Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (RA No. 9296) requires NMIS to provide regulations to ensure the safety, quality and wholesomeness of fresh and meat products sold or meat markets;

NOW, THEREFORE I, PROVIDENCIA VALDEZ, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture on thereby issue this Order on Rules and Regulations on Hygienic Handling of Chilled, Frozen and Thawed Meat in Meat Markets.

Section 1
SCOPE

This Order covers the hygiene sanitation, of chilled, frozen and thawed meat when sold in meat markets. Meat markets shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1.1 Meat Shops
1.2 Supermarkets and grocery stores
1.3 Restaurants
1.4 Wet markets
1.4.1 public markets
1.4.2 private markets
1.4.3 satellite markets/flea markets ("bagsakan")

Section 2
DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms as used in this Order shall mean:

1. Contracting authority - the official authority charged by the government with the control of meat hygiene and meat inspections.
2. Foreign Meat Establishments - any accredited facilities or foreign country engaged in the slaughtering and dressing of food animals and processing, cutting, deboning and storing of meat and meat products, are recognized by the National meat/meat establishment officials of that country to export meat and meat products.
3. Locally Registered Meat Establishments - slaughterhouses, meat processing plants, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants and cold storages that can prepare to operate by the Philippine slaughterhouses duly accredited by the NMIS.
4. Meat Administrative Meeter - person in charge of the overall operations of the establishment shall include ensuring the maintenance of hygiene and sanitation of the facilities.
5. Meats - refers to the edible part of the carcass including offal derived from food animals.
   5.1 Chilled meat - is meat derived from newly slaughtered animals the temperature of which is brought down to a minimum product temperature suggested below 4°C or as appropriate and which is maintained. The maximum product temperature during cutting, processing, handling, transport, storage, distribution and retail sale.
   5.2 Frozen Meat - is meat derived from newly slaughtered animals brought down to a minimum product center temperature -18°C during and in most of the cases the meat is converted to ice. The meat is stored and held at a core temperature of -18°C or lower. The maximum product center temperature of 0°C (meat-ice). The product temperature is maintained during cutting, processing, handling, transport, storage, distribution and retail sale.
   5.3 Thawed Meat - is meat obtained from frozen meat and where the product temperature is allowed to rise to a level higher than 0°C but not higher than 7°C under temperature conditions controlled by. During thawing, it is usual to see previously frozen meat are recommended to be stored from the outer surface of meat and the center is still frozen. It is forbidden of liquid (white "drip"). Thawed meat is unsafe, it was previously frozen, or not the same product as "newly slaughtered meat" or "chilled meat".
   5.4 Newly Slaughtered Meat - is meat obtained from animals slaughtered within the day and served to the consumer within a specified time limit and regular inspections by NMIS, during which it retains its fresh like characteristics of odor, texture and will refer to as good or acceptable. It is distributed and sold to the consumer without undergoing any of the said processes.
6. Meat Cold Storage Warehouse - meat establishment that is accredited by the Contracting Authority, which is being used for the storage of food and/or imported meat.
7. Meat Cutting Plant - meat establishment, building as stand-alone or on integral part of a bigger facility accredited by NMIS or registered by DOH/Local Sanitary Authorities as storage meat cuts and offal.
8. Meat Establishments - premises such as slaughterhouses, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants, meat processing plants and cold storage warehouses wherein meat and meat products are slaughtered, processed, cut, deboned, prepackaged, handled and/or stored and accredited by the NMIS or registered by the LGUs to conduct the indicated meat handling activity.
9. Meat Inspector - a person attending/working meat during its slaughter preparation, cutting, processing, packaging, transport, storage, distribution and retail activities until the sale of the meat to the consumer.
10. Meat Inspection Certificate - is an official document issued by NMIS or LGUs at the establishment level to indicate that the meat inspected at a specified date and time was found to be safe and wholesome.
11. Meat Vendor - persons, company/business entity, duly authorized by NMIS to handle meat and meat products.
12. Meat Vendors - refers to the following premises where meat is sold directly to consumers:
   12.1 Wet Market - a market where most of the food commodities for sale are perishable, processed and packaged. It may be either of the following:
      12.1.1 Public market - a market owned, operated and/or managed by the government intended to serve the general public.
      12.1.2 Private market - a market owned, operated and/or managed by private individuals or entities, corporations, institution or cooperation intended to serve the general public.
   12.2 Meat Shop - is a family or business independent structure maintained to sell meat and meat by-meat products.
   12.3 Supermarket and grocery stores - a market distinct from a wet market in which consumers select meat from refrigerated displays or display chiller maintaining the required product temperature.
13. Meat Trader - any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of buying or selling meat and meat products as wholesaler, jobber or distributor or meat in their own name or for the account of others as a commission merchant or agent, or broker, other than for his own account or as an employee of another person, firm or corporation. Handle, sells or sale and may contain materials from meat establishments.
14. Meat Vending Machine - an enclosed convenience prefabricated, self-contained unit for the transfer of meat and meat products from mechanical/automated to the point of consumption or point of purchase.
15. Meat vendor - any person who sells meat directly to the consumer from a meat stall in a meat market and who is licensed to carry out this activity by the LGUs.
16. Portable seller - person operates push heads and assistants accommodated for delivering, preparation and cooking purposes.
17. Prepackaged meat - refers to chilled, frozen and thawed meat enclosed in a primary packaging material, prepared in advance and ready for retail sale to the consumer.
18. Primary packaging material - refers to the film/paper/box/plastic/wrapping materials in direct contact with the meat and/or product it is to contain/enclose.
19. Slaughter - any mechanical or non-mechanical process of severing or piercing an animal by deliberately severing circulation/destruction the arteries, vital nerve, etc.
20. Species - a subdivision for meats such as cattle, carabao/water buffaloes, pigs, swine, horse, sheep, or other animal species as may be identified as a species of livestock.

Section 3
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEAT TRADERS, HANDLERS, HANDLERS AND MARKET ADMINISTRATORS

Meat Traders, Vendors and Handlers overhead in the business of processing, delivering, sold or selling meat and meat products for meat markets are responsible for the safety and quality of the meat and meat products which they treat, slaughter, prepare, cut, process, pre-package, and transport, sell, or handle in any other way mentioned in this Guideline.

Meat Traders and Vendors

3.1 Meat Traders and Vendors shall ensure:
   3.1.1 that the meat they consume, distribute and sell is prior within the prescribed time from production date.
   3.1.2 that traceability is maintained by keeping appropriate records of transactions.
3.2 Meat Traders and Vendors shall carry out control of food hazards, meat illness, contaminants and other meat standards, must be transacted and meat meet all the requirements of the Code (Sanitation Code of Philippines, Sanitary Permit etc).
3.3 Meat Traders and Vendors shall ensure that the Veterinary Meat Inspection Certificate issued by the contracting authorities is displayed conspicuously in meat markets.

Meat Handlers

3.4 Meat Handlers shall maintain clean and neat personal appearance and shall comply with the local/municipal health requirements for personal hygiene in the handling of meat found in Section 41 of this Guideline.
3.5 They must have a Certificate of Meat Handlers training course or Hygiene Handling, duly issued by Municipal/city Health Office or by LGUs.
3.6 They shall be covered by the LGUs accident assistance or Annual Health Certificates.

Market Administrators

3.7 The Market Administrator shall ensure that:
   3.7.1 meat handlers are licensed;
   3.7.2 the market facilities required for the hygiene and sanitary handling of meat and meat products are provided.
3.8 They shall assist the contracting authority in the enforcement of this Guideline.

Section 4
MEAT GUARDS AND CERTIFICATION

All meat carrying offered for sale in any meat market shall have proper inspection and certified. All the human consumption by a contracting authority, in must conform to the following:

4.1 The meat meat come from an accredited or locally registered meat cold storage or meat cutting plant. When meat meat is allowed in retail packages, meat come from accredited cold storage warehouses.
4.2 Any meat meat intended for retail sale shall be accompanied by a meat inspection certificate from meat establishment.
4.3 If meat is intermittently exposed to extreme temperature conditions of inadequate meat may affect safety and suitability, an inspection must be carried out by a competent person and a meat inspection certificate issued before further transport, distribution or sale is allowed.

Section 5
MEAT PACKAGING AND LABELING

When meat is served as bulk and pre-packaged packed the following shall apply:

5.1 Prescribing and pre-packaging shall take place in a designated area that is shielded from inclement weather and environment.
5.2 Meat shall not be kept material that requires to protect the environment during prescribing and packaging.
5.3 The pre-selling and packaging area must be kept under good hygienic condition and should comply with Section 41 of this Guideline and personnel should apply good hygiene practices as mentioned in Section 41 of this Guideline.
5.4 Primary packaging material and packaged meat shall be:
   5.4.1 food grade
   5.4.2 of adequate barrier properties
   5.4.3 free from any form of impurities or contaminants
   5.4.4 without defects or cut holes
   5.4.5 strong, durable and tamper proof
5.5 Prepackaged chilled, frozen or thawed meat shall be labeled with the following information:
   5.5.1 Name and type of the product
   5.5.2 Net quantity
   5.5.3 Name and address of the meat cutting plant inspected
   5.5.4 Processing date
   5.5.5 Use-by/Expiration date
   5.5.6 Expiry Date for 30 Hours Meat

Section 6
MEAT TRANSPORT TO MEAT MARKETS

All meat shall be transported in accordance with the following requirements:

6.1 Meat meat be transported in an accredited vehicle that shall always be kept clean and regularly disinfected. The vehicle should not have been used for transporting live animals or any other meat unless it has previously effect the safety and quality of the meats to be transported.
6.2 Transport vehicles and meat used should be clean and free of excessive ventilation so that meat and meat products have been contaminated.
6.3 Meat transport vehicle should be used for transporting meat from the cold storage warehouse and cutting plant to the market. Meat that is spoilt and rotten should not be exposed and distributed and for eating.
6.4 To prevent the distribution effects of airborne contaminants, the transport vehicle should be closed, and/or have provision for covering/protecting the meat.
6.5 Chilled or frozen meat shall not be transported in refrigerated vehicles and/or insulated containers that are prior to maintain the required temperature.
6.6 The product temperature of transport vehicle should not carry lives, personal effects and other materials that may contaminate the product and meat.

Section 7
HANDLING OF CHILLED MEAT, FROZEN MEAT AND THAWED MEAT AT MEAT MARKETS

7.1 General considerations:

The following rules and regulations shall be observed in the handling of meat in meat markets and meat meat meat:

7.1.1 Chilled meat shall not be frozen and shall be maintained at a minimum product temperature higher than 0°C and a maximum of 4°C. Frozen meat should be maintained at a maximum product temperature of 0°C and should not be placed in meat display chillers (temperature ranges of 0°C to 4°C) but may be maintained at a maximum product temperature of 0°C.
7.1.2 All persons and entities engaged in the handling and sale of meat in meat markets shall be licensed by NMIS or accredited by LGUs.
7.1.3 There shall be no mixing or intermingling of different types of meat. Each type of meat (chilled, frozen, thawed) shall be handled according to requirements designated in Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14.
7.1.4 Facilities, such as meat display counters shall be of a size and design that ensures the maintenance of product temperature, facilitates the proper handling of the meat and assures hygienic sanitary of the facility.
7.1.5 Meat vendors shall wear clean protective clothing and use and sanitary effort taken to prevent contamination at all times. During sale, customers are not to think it necessary to handle the meat. Eyes and should not taken from meat after having to touched.
7.1.6 Meat where the meat is handled and sold shall be maintained in sanitary condition and in good repair at all times.
7.1.7 The meat contact surfaces of display and cutting and trays shall be cleaning. If pools of meat intended for later sale shall not be allowed to collect and meat receiving devices or when storage containers are being cleaned.
7.1.8 Meat receiving, cleaning after the separation or consecutive selling time and after the day's work, all meat contact surfaces, such as the tops of counters, cutting and trays, shall be sanitized from the sales area. If cleaning or rips or spoilage it can be further allowed for other purposes.
7.1.9 Meat Vendors shall practice cleaning of price indications removed from the sales area, properly disposed and not further utilized for human consumption. Contracting Authority shall inspect this.
7.1.10 Disposal/use of Fat - Fat (Tallow) shown on the Consumer Act of the Philippines as Title III Protection Against Hazardous, Unfair and Unconscionable Sales Acts or Practices should not be treated such as:
   a. prohibition on the use of toxic packaging lights, dyes and other materials as a means to disguise the conditions can be the impairment, unwholesomeness of the goods; and
   b. prohibition on the use of deceptive practices and unfair competitive practices.

7.2 Chilled Meat

The following shall be observed in the handling of chilled meat at meat markets:

7.2.1 Chilled meat should be kept at a minimum product temperature higher than 0°C in the storage/meeting area to maintain a product temperature of 4°C particularly handling, distribution and sale.
7.2.2 The product shall be displayed in open/refrigerated chiller meat counters where or not and in meat packages in refrigerated display chillers and/or insulated meat coolers with up to 4 hours' grace, and other similar periods for selling product. Chilled cut portions can be displayed after packed in prepackaged meat packaging.
7.2.3 Chilled meat can also be cut or sliced from the original form in supermarkets and other meat markets, provided such cut, sliced cooked, sterilized, pre-cooked, and materials meat are available in good standards carry out the activity in a sanitary manner.
7.2.4 Meat offers and display and merchandising and spreading of chilled meat shall take place in an air-conditioned or refrigerated meat establishment. The cutting and slicing of chilled meat in supermarkets and other meat markets shall also be carried out in clean and sanitized cut refrigerated for this purpose.
7.2.5 When meat is used for chilled to protect temperature, it shall be suitable. The length of time chilled meat can be and remain safe for original quality and severe factors such as the temperature conditions of the meat. Chilled meat kept in transition than under refrigeration has a more limited storage time.
7.2.6 Chilled meat cannot come into and it by adding time because of a slight rise in its temperature consider and it is unsuitable from the point view. If processes or signs of spoilage, it can be used for purposes traditionally applied for the utilization of meat spoilt meat and not back to the same manner.

7.3 Frozen Meat

The following rules and regulations shall be observed in the handling of frozen meat at meat markets:

7.3.1 Frozen meat shall be kept at a product temperature no higher than 0°C during and handling, storage, distribution and sale.
7.3.2 Frozen meat shall be sold from display freezers and/or meat freezers that maintain a product temperature at a maximum of 0°C or lower.
7.3.3 When frozen meat is cut into smaller blocks for retail sale, the cutting shall take place under temperature controlled conditions in an accredited/registered meat establishment or in a control cutting facility in the market.
7.3.4 Frozen meat can continue to be sold provided its original quality and consumer acceptance are maintained.

7.4 Thawed Meat

The following rules and regulations shall be observed in the handling of thawed meat at meat markets:

7.4.1 Thawing and cutting shall take place in an NMIS accredited/LGU registered meat establishment.
7.4.2 Thawing of frozen meat shall take place under a temperature controlled environment that does not exceed a maximum of 7°C.
7.4.3 Thawing medium such as water shall not be used provided that meat is completely sealed in a packaging material and in its original cut packaging.
7.4.4 Product temperatures shall be maintained at a maximum of 7°C during cutting to prevent the formation of drip. Regardless of human safety, familiar under temperature controlled conditions, meat handlers may cut the meat to meet buyers orders to storage conditions and quickly return the unsold portion into the same temperature regulated environment. Exposure to ambient temperatures while not under the process including for immediate sale shall not be allowed.
7.4.5 The thawed meat shall not kept in hanging, shelves or suspended container with no gaps or meat materials to ensure that product temperature is maintained and no drip from fall.
7.4.6 Thawed Meat should at the end of the selling time increase in a slight way. It is the original quality of the meat and should be consumed in the same state. If showing no signs of spoilage it can be used for other purposes.

Section 8
HYGIENE, SANITATION AND WORKER CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEAT MARKETS

1. Stray animals must not be allowed in any meat market.
2. Infestations of insects or rodents must be reported immediately to the Market Administrator/Owner.
3. The meat must, by no overriding consequence in a more ground be kept clean, free of litter and odors, in good hygiene and condition and free from rumors and decay.
4. The meat sales shall be free from personal belongings, such as clothes, footwear, utensils, tobacco and other forms of contamination.
5. Meat handlers must be trained and be free from communicable diseases.
6. Illness Abatement Program must be regularly implemented.
7. Meat stall including floor and surrounding areas should be properly drained and disinfected before and after use.
8. The meat sales area or counter should be built of solid, resistant and impermeable material and should not be difficult to light for a safety and light.
9. Lighting and ventilation must be adequate to prevent the build up of steam, meat odor, condensation, accidental chemical substances and free of smoke and emissions.
10. Knives, chilled and meat hooks should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
11. Separate meat, condensation should be emptied at the end of sale periods and cleaned properly.
12. Proper drainage system should be maintained and maintained.
13. Protective water and smoke masks readily available.

Section 9
REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL HYGIENE

9.1 Persons known or suspected to be suffering from, or to be carriers of infectious illness or are communicable through meats and/or person to person, shall not be allowed to handle any meat and meat meat.
9.2 Meat handlers must follow all necessary steps to prevent the contamination of meat by maintaining a high degree of personal cleanliness and habits. Are not limited to the following:
   a. Taking a bath before going to work;
   b. Wearing clean apron and hand during work;
   c. Keeping hair neatly trimmed and combed during work;
   d. Not wearing dirty clothes, or excessive and perfumes;
   e. Using suitable protective clothing and not shall be changed everyday or as often as necessary.
9.3 Meat handlers shall be aware and shall the proper hand washing practices:
   a. Steps in hand washing:
      i. Wet hands with suitable water;
      ii. Soap, lather and scrub the palms of the hands, fingers and wrists;
      iii. Rinse hands and wrists under water;
      iv. Dry hands with clean cloth or towel.
   b. When hands frequently to prevent contamination of the meat, including but not limited to the following:
      i. before, during and after work;
      ii. immediately after using the toilet;
      iii. after coughing and sneezing;
      iv. after contact with dirty objects and materials;
      v. before and after eating.
9.4 To prevent contamination of meat, the following shall not handle or, shall be strictly prohibited, while on work:
   a. smoking;
   b. eating and drinks while;
   c. spitting;
   d. chewing or eating;
   e. sneezing or coughing over meat and meat products;
   f. handling of money and other materials;
   g. processing, cooking, hair dressing.

Section 10
IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY

10.1 Pursuant to Section 10 of RA 9296, the Local Government Units (LGU) being the primary implementing agency of this Order shall ensure that all meat markets comply with that terms and provisions as mentioned in this Order, RA 7160 and 9296, and implement and monitor the compliance of this order.
10.2 The National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) shall assist the LGUs in the implementation of this Regulation.
10.3 The National Meat Inspection Council (NMIC) shall support the LGUs and NMIS in the advocacy program related to the implementation of this Order.

Section 11
PENALTY PROVISION

All persons or corporations, found guilty of directly or indirectly violating any provisions of this Order shall be subject to sanctions prescribed in Republic Act 7394, otherwise known as the "Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines" without prejudice to prosecution for violation of the Consumer Act of the Philippines and other applicable laws.

Section 12
SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event any or more of such provisions are held unconstitutional, the validity of other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Section 13
REPEALING CLAUSE

Department Administrative Order No. 01 series of 2010, is hereby repealed and provisions of Department Administrative Orders, Memorandum Circulars, and other issuances that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby rectified, revoked or modified accordingly.

Section 14
EFFECTIVITY

This Administrative Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of national circulation or in any official Gazette or in filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

APPROVED:

PROVIDENCIA V. VALDEZ
Secretary

RECOMMENDED BY:

ATTY. ANNE SALAZAR-JIMENEZ
Executive Director I
National Meat Inspection Service

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Northern Samar
Municipality of Victoria
and
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Bid for Upgrading Improvement of Victoria Farm to Market Road

The LGU-Victoria, through the Department of Agriculture intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Pesos (Php15,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Upgrading Improvement of Victoria Farm to Market Road**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The entire contractual scope calls for upgrading/improvement of Farm to Market Road which includes Earthworks, Portland Cement Concrete Pavement, and Construction of one unit 24 RCPC, two (2) units single box RCPCs, Open Canal, and Road Appurtenances. The contract duration shall be 210 calendar days to be starting on February 2012. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Eight Thousand Pesos (Php8,000.00).

The LGU-Victoria shall pre-bid Conference on March 26, 2012 at the Municipal Hall-Municipal Building, Victoria. A) Bidders shall be required to attend all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before (insert date and time) at the Municipal Hall-Municipal Building, Victoria. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **Fifteen Million Pesos (Php15,000,000.00)**.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The LGU-Victoria reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Ellen C. Ramos
BAC Secretariat
Municipal Hall-Municipal Building
Victoria, Northern Samar

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ALAN BEN C. PEMBALOR**
BAC Chairman, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Office applications for Alien Employment Permit:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Nationality of Alien Applicant	Position and Duration (Number of Months) of Employment
1.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information relative to the above mentioned applications for alien employment, please write to the Regional Director.

ATTY. ROMEO B. MARTINEZ JR., CESO III
Regional Director

To avoid delay in the issuance of the Alien Employment Permit, employers are advised to submit the following requirements to the Regional Director, Department of Labor and Employment, Regional Office No. IV-A, [illegible] Cabuyao City, Laguna:

1. Duly accomplished Application Form for Alien Employment Permit;
2. Proof of payment of the filing fee;
3. Certified true copy of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws;
4. Certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration with the Board of Investments;
5. Certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
6. Certified true copy of the Mayor's Permit;
7. Certified true copy of the Tax Identification Number;
8. Certified true copy of the Audited Financial Statements;
9. Certified true copy of the Contract of Employment between the employer and the alien;
10. Certified true copy of the Alien's Passport;
11. Certified true copy of the Alien's Visa;
12. Certified true copy of the Alien's Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar Certificate;
13. Certified true copy of the Alien's Tax Identification Number;
14. Certified true copy of the Alien's Bureau of Immigration Clearance;
15. Certified true copy of the Alien's Work Experience;
16. Certified true copy of the Alien's Curriculum Vitae;
17. Certified true copy of the Alien's Diploma;
18. Certified true copy of the Alien's Transcript of Records;
19. Certified true copy of the Alien's Professional License;
20. Certified true copy of the Alien's Training Certificate;
21. Certified true copy of the Alien's Medical Certificate;
22. Certified true copy of the Alien's Police Clearance;
23. Certified true copy of the Alien's Birth Certificate;
24. Certified true copy of the Alien's Marriage Certificate;
25. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Passport;
26. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Visa;
27. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Tax Identification Number;
28. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Bureau of Immigration Clearance;
29. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Birth Certificate;
30. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Marriage Certificate;
31. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
32. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
33. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
34. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
35. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
36. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
37. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
38. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
39. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
40. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
41. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
42. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
43. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
44. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
45. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
46. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
47. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
48. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
49. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
50. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
51. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
52. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
53. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
54. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
55. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
56. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
57. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
58. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
59. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
60. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
61. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
62. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
63. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
64. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
65. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
66. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
67. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
68. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
69. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
70. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
71. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
72. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
73. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
74. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
75. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
76. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;
77. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Transcript of Records;
78. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Work Experience;
79. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Training Certificate;
80. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Medical Certificate;
81. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Police Clearance;
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98. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Professional License;
99. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Curriculum Vitae;
100. Certified true copy of the Alien's Dependent's Diploma;

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

USAID/Philippines is seeking information from the marketing, determined there and local sources) in Philippine non-governmental organizations, private firms, academic institutions with demonstrated capability that can provide technical services in the following areas:

- **Tuberculosis**: Increasing demand for and utilization of quality TB control and multidrug-resistant (MDR) and (XDR) TB treatment and services; ensuring the continuous supply of TB drugs; Directly Observed Therapy Short course (DOTS) services and MDR/XDR TB management and treatment; and improving the policy and regulatory environment for TB control and MDR/XDR TB treatment. One award covering selected sites across the country is anticipated over an estimated amount of $2.5 to $3.7 million over five years.

Interested parties are invited to submit a capability statement along with their company profile to include:

(a) Background of your organization/firm/institution, including contact information, areas of expertise, and comparative advantage.
(b) Information that demonstrates your company's technical and financial capabilities to perform desired services above.
(c) Information indicating similar past or on-going projects.

The capability statement should not exceed ten (10) pages and should be submitted electronically addressed to Grace M. Lagutao, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, at glagutao@usaid.gov with subject line "RFI on Health Services submitted by [Name of Organization]" on or before **March 30, 2012**.

Responses to this RFI will be treated as information only. The information obtained will be used as market research in consideration in the development of USAID's procurement strategy, which may eventually result in a U.S. Government procurement action. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that USAID is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Respondents are also advised that potential awardees will be required to meet USAID's pre-award requirements.

(PH-March 11 & 18, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the **new PhilHealth Card Express Onsite Registration** has been temporarily suspended since February 17, 2012. All personnel of Prime ITSource, Inc. or any individual or group shall cease and desist from engaging in all activities therein including, but not limited to issuing or receiving registration forms and collecting fees amounting to P80.00 for existing members and P180.00 for new members as indicated in the suspension advisory of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) since February 17, 2012. Violators will be dealt to the fullest extent of the law.

Please report any violations to
Customer Service, Prime ITSource, Inc. at telephone no. 709-4427 (PLDT).

(PH-March 18, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MR. ALVIN JASARENO ARAÑES

This is to notify the public that, as of November 23, 2011, the above-named person ceased to be connected with **ISTTO DEMKO PHILS. CORP.** (the "Company").

All transactions with Mr. Arañes executed later by him for and on behalf of the Company after November 23, 2011 will not be honored by the Company.

(PH-March 18, 2012)

ZAMBALES II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Magsaysay, Castillejos, Zambales
Tel. No. (047) 602-2000 / 602-2001

INVITATION TO BID

The Zambales II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMELCO II) with office address at Magsaysay, Castillejos invites all qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of the following electrical materials and equipment:

SCHEDULE I	-	POLE LINE HARDWARE
SCHEDULE II	-	INSULATORS
SCHEDULE III	-	WIRES
SCHEDULE IV	-	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER
SCHEDULE V	-	CONNECTORS
SCHEDULE VI	-	FUSE LINK
SCHEDULE VII	-	PRESCRIBED LINES
SCHEDULE VIII	-	POLE
SCHEDULE IX	-	KWH METER
SCHEDULE X	-	KWH METER SOCKET
SCHEDULE XI	-	CT RATIO
SCHEDULE XII	-	CURRENT TRANSFORMER
SCHEDULE XIII	-	LINEMAN'S TOOL

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent and secure bidding documents to Invitation to Bidders and detailed list of materials at BAC Secretariat from **MARCH 19, 2012 to MARCH 30, 2012** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility, Technical, and Financial Proposals and Pre-qualification of eligible bidders will be on **APRIL 10, 2012 at 10:00 noon** and the opening of bid documents on **APRIL 10, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.** Each document should be submitted in **sealed envelopes** highly marked "Eligibility Documents", "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal", respectively.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a check/cash bond of two and a half (2.5%) percent of the bid price.

ZAMELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the requisite formality therein and accepts the bids only deemed most advantageous to the cooperative.

Bids and Awards Committee
ZAMELCO II

(PH-March 18, 2012)

NOTICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY/ SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS/MEMBERS:

Notice is hereby served that the 38th GENERAL ASSEMBLY/ SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING of the Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines (CISP) will be held on April 28, 2012, Saturday, 8:00 A.M. at the Manila Gymnasium, City of Malolos, Bulacan, for the following purposes:

1. To consider the business of the STOTSH;
2. To consider the reports of the Board of Directors and that of Management;
3. To consider and/or approve new business;
4. To elect members of the Board of Directors;
5. To elect members of the following committees:
   a. Election Committee;
   b. Audit Committee; and
6. To elect an External Auditor.

ORLANDO C. CRUZ, JR.
Corporate Secretary

REMARKS:

- The delegate is reminded to bring with him the Resolution designating the Board Delegate as the duly accredited representative of the corporation, signed/countersigned by other members (Section 52[c], Article IV, Amended By-Laws). The delegate must present the aforesaid resolution for his/her to be registered as such. Failure of the delegate to present the aforesaid Board Resolution/Secretary's certification may mean non-participation.

(All Notices of Meeting Must Be Posted Conspicuously in the Principal Office, Branch Offices and Publication)

Verification and Audit of HACCP Training

THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT Center (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a training course on the "Verification and Audit of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and HACCP Based Food Safety Systems from Farm to Table" on March 28-30, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig City.

Verification and validation audits are essential to an effective HACCP and sanitation plan. Verification audit provides a level of confidence that the HACCP plan is based on scientific principles and is adequate to prevent or control food hazards associated with its processes. It also includes validation of critical control point (CCP), critical limit and corrective actions and evaluation of the prerequisite programs, to ensure that all hazard controls are operating properly. Also it provides the business owners of how HACCP plans are properly implemented.

Participants are given exercises to include walking through the step-by-step process of verification audit to assist them in evaluating whether the HACCP plans are working as documented. At the end of the workshop, trainees are expected to go through first person verification audit of the HACCP plans and participants will be able to evaluate how effectively they are implemented.

Dr. Manuel M. Garcia, an internationally recognized expert and trainer in microbiology and food safety and a CIDT Balik Scientist, is the principal resource speaker. He is a former Senior Research Scientist and two-time recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Filipino Overseas. He is currently a visiting foreign adviser to FDC, the National Science Research Institute (NSRI) of Sri Silmore, Philippine Coconut Authority and the Canadian Executive Service Organization. Dr. Garcia was elected as corresponding member of the National Academy of Science and Technology in July 2008.

The course fee is P9,200.00 per participant inclusive of a training manual, lunch, snacks. Interested participants are encouraged to make reservations early and confirm it through payment of the required fee.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Aurelia S. Bautista of FDC-NFA, FTI Complex, Taguig City at telephone Nos. 836-4014, 836-4161 / 836-4175, 836-4627, Fax No. 836-4018 and 836-4632 and at e-mail address nfafdc@ec.net.ph.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

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Binalot's 'fish be with you' Lenten specials"

"BUWIS PRE-COMMENDED" Catholic, most still adhere to religious rituals during Lent, one of which is refraining from meat on Fridays leading to Easter, after Ash Wednesday.

For this Lenten season, Binalot Fresh Foods Inc. (BFFI), the home of the ultimate Filipino food experience, offers the 'fish be with you' Lenten specials: bangus ala paksiw and bangus steak. Both are made only with choice boneless bangus belly cuts, marinated and pan-fried to perfection. The ala paksiw is made 'special' by the garlic sauce topped on the steamed rice, while the bangus steak is with soy sauce and kalamansi juice as sauce and steamed rice heaped with onion rings.

For deliveries, please call 8378888, or visit http://www.binalot.com to find Binalot's store in her/him nearest you, as well as for franchise information.

Bangus ala paksiw

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
FOR ATTENTION: NOTICE AND ERROR, WE PLEASE TO ALL DEPARTMENTS, ADVERTISE, AND READ ALL ADVERTISEMENTS CAREFULLY. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

FEB 15 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Members of the National and Local DRRM Councils

SUBJECT: Guidelines for the Selection of Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to Members of the National and Local DRRM Councils

I. Purpose

1.1 To provide guidelines for the selection and implementation of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to Members of the National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs);

1.2 To build the DRRMCs's commitment to anticipate and handle uncertainties through open and participatory participation through deeper participation to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) efforts and to strengthen transparency;

1.3 To create a conducive environment for substantive and sustainable participation of NGOs, private sectors, volunteers and communities, and recognize their contributions to the government's initiatives for disaster DRRM and encourage voluntary participation on social responsibility;

1.4 Engage the participation of CSOs, the private sector, and volunteers in the government's DRRM efforts to enhance disaster management/mitigation, its awareness and effective delivery of services.

II. Coverage

The Implementation Guidelines shall cover the selection of five (5) representatives from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who shall serve as a representative to the Sub-Private Sectors to the National and Local DRRM Councils.

III. Definition of Terms

For purposes of this Memorandum Circular, the following terms shall mean the following specifications:

a) **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** – are public action entities similar to, but distinguishable from the state, government institutions, political parties or elected officials. They have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. CSOs include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent research institutes, community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations, social organizations, social movements, and labor unions. They are organized on a non-profit, non-national basis for organizations, or made basis of interest or common purpose and in non-governmental manner.

b) **Private Sector** – the key actor in the economy which controls capital, owns economic enterprises and the industry, employs production and distribution of goods and services, and earns profits as the motive force for economic growth. This includes private corporations, cooperatives and non-profit institutions serving households.

c) **Volunteerism** – is a term used to describe a wide variety of activities that involve giving time and energy to benefit others, the community, society, the environment, and oneself, usually without financial gain. It is a major form of social capital and prevalent in all societies. Volunteerism can be formal, informal, episodic, or traditional, and can encompass activities undertaken by individuals, groups, associations, and organizations.

d) **Corporate Social Responsibility** – as defined differently in various literature and practices, but generally refers to the way companies manage the business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society. Companies generally claim to be socially responsible by complying with international and local laws, conducting philanthropic activities, and voluntarily addressing social and environmental concerns.

IV. Scope of CSO Representation in the NDRRMC/LDRRMCs

4.1 Select and train civil society organizations that have the capacity to effectively participate and contribute to transparency and accountability and assist stakeholders in the NDRRMC and LDRRMCs in carrying out their mandate in the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery phases of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) activities.

4.2 Utilize their skills and talents in awareness activities relating to the disaster monitoring and evaluation of interventions in accordance with applicable regulations and aspects, and provide technical assistance to the DRRMCs in the implementation.

4.3 Pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) 10121 otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (PDRRM) Act 2010, there shall be five (5) representatives from the CSOs to be nominated by the Sub-Private Sectors to the National and Local DRRM Councils.

4.3.1 The five (5) representatives of the CSOs shall come from the following categories:

a. One (1) representative from the academe or independent research institutes, which is a duly recognized entity;
b. One (1) representative from the NGOs;
c. One (1) representative from the media entity;
d. One (1) representative from professional organizations, foundations or corporate social responsibility programs; and
e. One (1) representative from the private sector, which shall be a duly recognized entity.

Representation of CSOs in the five (5) categories shall be possible only if said categories exist in the area in the LDRRMC to be represented.

4.3.2 The representatives from the private sector shall come from the private sector organizations or business organizations, either profit or non-profit, non-governmental.

4.4 For the local councils, LDRRMOs shall give preferential consideration to CSOs which are members accredited or manifesting interest within the jurisdiction of which they may be appointed as members of said council (LDRRMC).

4.5 The appointed CSO representatives shall participate in emergency response operations that are not limited to the immediate vicinity of affected areas or areas in close proximity, and that they are knowledgeable of the risk profiles, vulnerabilities, and capacities in the various sectors and levels of the communities within the LGU.

V. Conditions of Eligibility for Council Membership

5.1 To participate in any of the National and Local DRRM Councils, a CSO must be interested to be involved in the various activities of the NDRRMC;

5.2 The CSO must be an incorporated entity duly existing under Philippine laws, and operational for at least two (2) years prior to the date of application, with a track record in disaster preparedness, relief and rehabilitation or in other development activities relevant to the NDRRMC;

5.3 The CSO shall have an institutional structure for managing its operations according to its mandate including appropriate mechanisms for collecting and reporting on the NDRRMC and keeping its officers accountable to its members;

5.4 Some examples of the CSOs participation considerations will include (i) CSOs that provide relief, rehabilitation and development services in the aftermath of disasters, which request an invitation to the Sectoral Committee to address humanitarian or development concerns;

5.5 As a general rule, all CSOs must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) if engaged in business activity or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) if engaged in cooperative activity in the Philippines. Other forms of registration, licensing and accreditation may be required depending on the CSO's operations. Organizations that do not have any of the above registrations may be registered with the DSWD Registration Unit for Non-Stock Corporations (RUNSC) if the organization is affiliated or linked to any of its members or networks that are registered with the SEC, CDA or DSWD. However, CSOs applying for accreditation at their respective levels shall be registered as a Stock and Non-Stock, Non-Profit Corporation/Organization with the SEC or the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);

5.6 Compliance with its terms of CSO applicants must comply with the requirements for organization or registration under Philippine laws;

5.7 CSO applicants for membership in the Council at the National and Local levels must have been participating in any disaster preparedness, response, rehabilitation, and recovery activities or programs/projects capable for any level in the National and Local DRRM Councils;

5.8 Prospective applicants for membership in the NDRRMC/LDRRMCs, and its sub-committees, must submit a letter of application addressed to the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairman.

VI. Application for National and Local DRRM Council Membership

6.1 To be considered for membership in the NDRRMC or CSO must submit not later than 30 March 2012 a letter of application addressed to the Chairman of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC, and shall attach an accomplished organizational profile of the organization. The NDRRMC Chairperson shall issue a Call for Application to the CSOs, which shall contain the criteria and requirements for membership, and the deadline for submission of letter of intent. CSOs shall meet the requirements defined in Items 5.6 and submit both sets of evidence to the NDRRMC for its consideration and approval.

6.2 For membership in the LDRRMC, a CSO must submit its letter to the Local DRRMO Chairperson. The LDRRMC Chairperson shall then call/request for a meeting of the LDRRMC to consider the application and approve.

6.3 The CSO must submit the written waiver of waiver of the CSO and their representatives and duties of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC's which formats is provided.

6.4 The CSO shall be accompanied by the following documents:

6.4.1 Official name, address, and date of establishment of the organization and the name of the authorized official (President, Director and Legal representative);

6.4.2 Certificate of Registration with the SEC, latest CDA certificate, or other proof of national networks, or Memorandum of Cooperation, accreditation by the concerned government agency, as the case may be;

6.4.3 Organizational chart of the entire structure of the organization, or the relation of organizational chart of the local chapter to the national organization, and its by-laws or constitution governing the organization;

6.4.4 Financial reports, audited by an independent certified Public Accountant covering the last two (2) years of the organization's operation to affirm the stability of the funds, activities and sound fiscal management and accountability of its executive officers or its members.

VII. Application Process

The application process shall proceed as follows:

7.1 Call for nominations to be sent out to members of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC by the NDRRMC Chairperson three (3) days after the approval of the Memorandum Circular.

7.2 The Secretariat shall conduct the screening process and shall submit documents for the NDRRMC/LDRRMC for its evaluation and recommendation, and approval of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairperson.

7.3 The NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall conduct open and transparent deliberations for the selection of the CSO representatives from the pool of qualified CSOs. The NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall endorse the CSO representatives to the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairperson for approval.

7.4 The NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairperson shall issue the appointment of the CSO representatives.

7.5 The NDRRMC/LDRRMC reserves the right to reject any or all applications and to waive any technical defect in submitting applications for the best interest of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC.

VIII. Selection Process

The selection process shall proceed as follows:

8.1 Prospective applicants shall be categorized as representatives of the academe or independent research institutes, NGOs and POs, and professional associations and foundations or corporate social responsibility (CSR) or business (per item 4.3.1).

8.2 The NDRRMC Secretariat shall conduct and administer assessments and interviews among already engaged or DRRM for such a long and arduous job, and shall make sure of consultation of LDRRMC and other groups in the area, and shall acknowledge in place.

[illegible]

8.3 The Council shall consider existing parameters in order to the processing of application submitted.

8.4 An ad hoc committee may [illegible] and shall be composed of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Executive Director of the NDRRMC, and other representatives as provided and published by the Council. The ad hoc committee shall be responsible for the evaluation and selection process and decision.

8.5 Through the Executive Director of the Office of Civil Defense, the ad hoc committee shall recommend the list of nominees for appointment to the NDRRMC.

IX. Responsibilities of the Civil Society Council Members

CSO Council Members shall commit to the following responsibilities:

9.1 Participate in all activities of their respective Councils such as, but not limited to meetings, conferences, trainings and capacity building programs, information campaigns, resource mobilizing, and etc.;

9.2 Provide substantive content activities to the other Members of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC during their meetings;

9.3 Attend duly called meetings of NDRRMC/LDRRMC, and refer to its members;

9.4 Inform the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairperson, in writing, of any change in their membership in their respective organizations;

9.5 Through the Chairperson of the Office of Civil Defense, shall submit a report on the activities/accomplishments of the NDRRMC.

X. Responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Civil Society Council Members

10.1 The Chairperson of the Civil Society Council Members shall:

10.1 Participate in all activities of their respective Councils such as, but not limited to meetings, conferences, trainings and capacity building programs, information campaigns, resource mobilizing, and etc.;

10.2 Provide substantive content activities to the other Members of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC during their meetings;

10.3 Attend duly called meetings of NDRRMC/LDRRMC, and refer to its members;

10.4 Inform the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Chairperson, in writing, of any change in their membership in their respective organizations;

10.5 Through the Chairperson of the Office of Civil Defense, shall submit a report on the activities/accomplishments of the NDRRMC.

XI. Term of Office of CSOs and Private Sector Council Members

11.1 CSOs and Private Sector Council Members shall have a term of two (2) years subject to review and evaluation by the NDRRMC/LDRRMC, at the end of the two (2) year period. Organizations may be reappointed based on their performance during the previous term, and their continuing interest to serve.

11.2 CSOs and Private Sector Representatives who are unable to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without valid reason shall be considered resigned.

XII. Review of Participating CSOs in the NDRRMC/LDRRMCs

12.1 The NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall conduct a periodic review of the performance of the CSOs and Private Sector Council Members in NDRRMC/LDRRMC activities with a view to promote the effectiveness of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC. The review shall be undertaken by the Secretariat of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC for the purpose of evaluation and for possible renewal of their terms.

12.2 For the purpose of the said review under 12.1, the NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall submit to the Secretariat a report on the activities undertaken by the Civil Society Council Representatives and its members submitted to the NDRRMC for its consideration and approval.

XIII. Suspension and Cancellation of Council Membership

13.1 NDRRMC/LDRRMC may, upon the approval of the majority of its members, suspend or cancel the membership of any CSO in the Council, after due notice and hearing, on any of the following grounds:

13.1.1 The CSO no longer passes the criteria of the sector it represents and fails to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the sector, as reflected in the regular assessments under Section 12;

13.1.2 Non-submission of reports to any [illegible];

13.1.3 Has committed misconduct duly [illegible];

13.1.4 Is found guilty of violating any of the provisions of Section 11.1 and is considered the most appropriate to conduct any of the following acts or omissions:

13.1.1 Any act committed under Section 13 of the [illegible];

13.1.2 Any act committed under the suspended rules and principles of the NDRRMC or Memorandum of Council Members;

13.1.3 CSO Members have demonstrated themselves to be in such a way to jeopardize the interests of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 paragraph 2.

XIV. Provisions of the Implementing Guidelines

14.1 The NDRRMC may establish or revise mechanisms of the Council, coming from the Sub-Private Sectors, upon the recommendations of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Regional Offices (ROs) and Local DRRM Offices (LDRRMOs), as the case may be, based on the results of the assessments of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Sub-Committees tasked in the implementation of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC Plans, Programs, Activities and Projects (PAPs).

14.2 The Chairperson of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall provide a written notification to the Council Members/CSO Private Sector representatives who are found violating any of the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the Council and provide the appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of operations and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

14.3 The Chairperson of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall provide a written notification to the Council Members/CSO Private Sector representatives who are found violating any of the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the Council and provide the appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of operations and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

14.4 The Chairperson of the NDRRMC/LDRRMC shall provide a written notification to the Council Members/CSO Private Sector representatives who are found violating any of the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the Council and provide the appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Council's Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of operations and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

XV. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL:

[illegible]
Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD

(DR. No. 0 [illegible])

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

Call for Application for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Private Sector (PS) Representatives to the National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Councils

National and Local Deadline of Application: March 30, 2012

The Secretary of National Defense and Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Voltaire T. Gazmin through the NDRRMC Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Gerardo Pangilinan is now accepting applications for CSO and PS Representatives to the National and Local DRRM Councils.

The National and Local DRRM Councils will each select five (5) CSO and one (1) PS Representatives. The CSO Representatives will be chosen from the following categories: one (1) from academe or independent research institutes, non-stock collegiate/civic sector, one (1) from non-formal CSOs, one (1) from NGOs/POs, one (1) from professional organizations, foundations, or corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the lone PS Representative will be chosen from private sector organizations or chambers of commerce, etc.

Which CSOs can apply?

1. CSOs registered under Philippine laws and which have minimum standards for managing their own organizations;
2. CSOs of demonstrated reliability and know particular fields of competence and must have sources from which their activities and/or programs are developed (DRRM). Provision as part of the CSOs must be national or local in scope and operate in particular within the jurisdiction of the LGU's where they are applying, as the case may be;
3. CSOs which have not participated in any election or party-list representatives in the Philippine Congress.

Application Requirements

1. Letter of intent (LOI) addressed to the National and Local DRRM Council Chairpersons, as the case may be, endorsing the CSO's primary mean of activity as established in DRRM activities;
2. Profile of the CSO's: Official name of the CSO, address, date of establishment, and the contact details of its authorized officers; and
3. Certificate of Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) or Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as the case may be, or in the absence of such registration, a certification from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) that it is affiliated or linked to any of its members or networks that are registered with the SEC, CDA or DSWD;
4. Authenticated copy of latest Articles of Incorporation or Articles of Cooperation showing original incorporators/members, and the latest amendments thereto, if any (CSOs/NGOs only);
5. Latest General Assembly Resolution of the CSO/NGO/PO;
6. Financial Report for the past two (2) CSO/NGO/PO audited by independent certified public accountant.

Selection Criteria

Applications received from interested organizations will be further evaluated through oral and/or written interview based on the following:

1. Commitment and engagement in DRRM programs, projects, and activities
2. Record of consistency in DRRM and climate change initiatives
3. Knowledge in policy development

Responsibilities of CSO Council Representatives

1. Participate in all activities of the Councils such as, but not limited to meetings, conferences, trainings and capacity building programs, information campaigns, disaster response and recovery, monitoring, and etc.;
2. Provide substantive content activities to the Councils during meetings;
3. Attend duly CDRRMO's meetings, programs, and projects (CSRP) and refer to its members;
4. Provide the Council with copies of their Board Resolution, plans, and Memorandum of Agreement;
5. Provide the Councils updated information if there is any change in the composition of its officers;
6. Coordinate and assist in the conduct of DRRM activities, programs, and projects in geographic areas where they operate;
7. Provide technical support and resource contributions to the Councils.

The NDRRMC/LDRRMC Selection Committee composed of representatives from government and private sector will evaluate applications based on the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in the Call for Application.

Please download the Call for Application at www.ndrrmc.gov.ph.

Applications for the National Council should be mailed or sent to the Plans Division, Office of Civil Defense, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110, Tel. 912-5668 / 912-5926 / 912-5925. Applications for the Local Councils should be sent to the respective Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices.

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Our dearly beloved

Antonia "Nya" Dilla Santana

Prayerfully joined the Lord and her husband Ambrosio Santana (†) and son Antonio Santana (†) on March 16, 2012 at the age of 88.

Her children: **Ambrocio & Lilian, Au & John Melvin, Albert & Baby** and **Antonio** (†); grandchildren & great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of the Mortuary and Crematory of The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

There will be a Mass at 2:00 pm on March 20, 2012, Tuesday. Funeral will follow at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City at 3:00 pm.

In Loving Memory

First death anniversary

DR. BRICCIO YÑIGO POBRE

(March 29, 1953-March 18, 2011)

His wife, Rebecca Agdamag Pobre (†); son - Baldomero and Cyrdiles (†);

Grandchildren, great grandchildren, his only surviving sister and brother-in-law Pilar and Victorino Cura, sister-in-law Telibasa Pobre, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Mass for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered on March 18, 2012 at St. James the Apostle Parish Church, Aya Igpig, Cagayan and Sts. Peter and Paul Metropolitan Cathedral, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

We remember our loved one as have lived his life according to these lines:

"I expect to pass thru world this once
Any good thing therefore that I can do
or any fellowman I can show or any kindness
Let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it
for I shall not pass this way again"

In Loving Memory

on the 29th Death Anniversary of

CONRADO C. ALCANTARA

who passed away on March 13, 1983

The Holy Mass will be offered for the eternal repose of his soul at the following:

St. Antoine Catholic Parishgar City	6:00am
Our Lady of Fatima's, Barbican, Pasay City	6:00am
Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Barbican, Pasay City	6:45am
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Parkes Park, Makati City	6:00pm
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish, Magallanes, Makati	6:00pm
Sta. Clara Parish, P. Burgos, Pasay City	6:00pm
San Juan Nepomuceno Parish Church, Malibay, Pasay City	6:00pm
San Roque Parish Church, Cabrera St., Pasay City	6:30pm
Catholic Missionary Church, Lanang, Davao City	6:30am
Assumption Church, P. Tuazon St., Davao City	6:30am
San Isidro Labrador Chapel, Sto. Niño, Talomo, Davao del Norte	8:00am
Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel, Abaca Compound, Lanang, Davao City	5:14pm
San Pedro Cathedral, San Pedro St., Davao City	5:30pm
Redemptorist Church, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City	5:30pm
San Pablo Parish Church, Matina, Davao City	6:00pm
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Mandaluyong	6:00pm
St. Michael's Cathedral, Quezon Ave., Iligan City	6:00am
Sacred Heart Church, Kiunisa, Iligan City	6:00am
Redemptorist Church, Tibanga, Iligan City	6:00am

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS

Hwajeong

Shimazaki

Korean, Japanese judges at AKCUPI's 49th & 50th Dog Shows March 25

MOO MOOBLESS OF THE KOREAN KENNEL Club (KKC) and Yuhiro Shimazaki of the Japan Canine Union (JCU) will grace the 49th and 50th All Breed Dog Shows of the Asian Kennel Club Union of the Philippines, Inc. (AKCUPI) on Sunday, March 25 at the People's Village of Residential in Pembien Mode, Dasmariñas Avenue cor. E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, EC (C), Nasipit City, Mindanao, who is a JCU all-breed judge since 2005, has also adjudicated in handling and grooming competitions. She has bred German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Shetland Sheepdogs, and Pomeranians. On the other hand, Shimazaki who is a JCU all-breed judge and adjudicated at the FCI (Spain) International All-Breed Dog Shows, has been an active member of the Japanese Dog Preservation Society of Japan since 1977 and was some prizes in JKC. The judges will select their respective sets of the best baby puppy, best Philippine born, and best in show from among the seven breed groupings that will be fielded during the event. The event coincides the club's 49th anniversary on March 20. AKCUPI Chairman Tomahawk and FCI Asia Pacific Head Henry G. Sabiniano is inviting all dog lovers in the show which is expected to draw exhibitors from Metro Manila and near by provinces. For more info/entries, please call the AKCUPI Office, Tel. Nos. 376-0557/58 or email at admin@akcupi.com.ph or visit www.akcupi.com.

Pre-Election Strategies for 2013!

DEFEAT IS NEVER AN OPTION. With the poll automation, the election battleground shifted from post-election fiery strike than you can no longer do to pre-election maneuverings that your opponents will exploit against you. Wash and fight back those unwinnable or not worth your time battles as we watch you become a disposable your opponents before election day purge the voters list surreptitiously and loyalists all flying colors, defeat your opponents through vote-rigging complaints if they don't act fairly, promote new local talkmen, and get what you want from COMELEC. We will also teach you how to file your candidacy, vote political party, and party list application THE SMART WAY.

The Center for Global Best Practice Series — Election Candidates & Operations, Points of Entry & Entry Use Decision Makers, Political Strategists, Campaign Officers, Operators & Law Enforcers, Volunteers & Pundits, Media Watchdogs, Stakeholders & PR Specialists or anyone interested in running for public office — to attend this one-day pioneering seminar entitled, "Pre-Election Strategies: Pre-emptive Strikes and Adverse Candidates Must Do Now to Win in 2013", scheduled on Friday, April 13, 2012 at the Filipino Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Mandaluyong City, Philippines. This program is MCLE accredited by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. For details and a complete list of seminars, you may log on to www.cgbp.org or call (02) 942-7149/ 59 and 330-8868/ 69; Cebu Basic: (032) 512-3106 or 07 or Baguio Basic: (074) 423-5148.

Those who want to ensure their victory in the 2013 election must plan and prepare at least one year ahead of the May 13, 2013 election. Anything less is risky and not only a no win for them, but, in addition, the deadline to manifest filing to the COMELEC is a party list in May 2013. And if you want to eradicate your opponents in the ballots, do it before the printing of the ballots this year, are you ready? Those who fail to attend will miss many things that their opponents could exploit to cause your defeat even before the election.

The cost-of-attend session will feature Atty. Sheffound T. Kalbasa, Director IV, Head of the COMELEC Law Department and August 2011 He will share all his knowledge, experiences, & secrets you need from and assume you want to come to avoid getting cheated and to win in 2013 election. He was Chairman of the Special Bids & Awards Committee of COMELEC in which the Automated Election System for the May 13, 2013 election. He's an MCLE Lecturer in Election Law and the Law on Automated Elections. He is accomplished the "ELECTRONIC" Election Law Enforcement and Compliance Plan, Voters Instruction and Candidates Educational. He graduated from JD Ateneo de Manila and an Cum Laude, William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. He is a career professional, he is an advocate of free and honest elections.

Interested participants are encouraged to avail of the early bird and group discounts. Seats are limited and pre-registration is required.

TOYOTA HR PROGRAM WINS IN THE 47TH ANVIL AWARDS. Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) bagged an Anvil Award for its Human Resources program, "The 2011 Search for Most Outstanding Leaders and Team Members (MOLT)". The MOLT program received the Anvil Award of Merit from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) for providing a conducive environment for its team members to develop their full potentials as they contribute to the Company's growth and success. MOLT, among Toyota's other programs, aims to recognize significant contributions to the company's performance, provide good role models worthy of emulation, and inspire excellence in all team members. In photo (from left) are Anvil Awards juror Bert Pasquin, TMP senior vice president Nicasio Alcantara, TMP executive vice president Yuji Goto, TMP senior executive vice president Dr. David Go, TMP president Hidetaka Sagara, Anvil Awards juror Francis Chaplen and Cynthia Green, and 47th Anvil Awards Committee chairman Ramon Isberto.

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Globe first PH telco to offer trilingual customer service

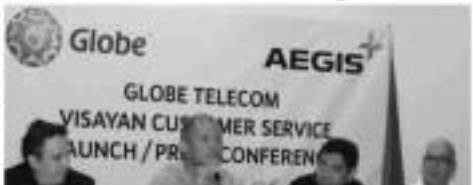
GLOBE Telecom marks another milestone in the Philippine telecommunications industry, offering the first trilingual customer service to provide Visayan language option to subscribers.

The launch of the new customer service with a Cebu-based contact center dedicated to Visayan-speaking customers, allow subscribers to converse with Globe easily in their vernacular of choice. This is aligned with the company's thrust of constantly innovating customer experiences by giving customers choices to make their Globe experience more personal.

The Visayan language is the second most widely spoken language in the country with over 20 million Filipinos speaking the language in various provinces and cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

"Once again, we are raising the bar of customer experience. By having a Cebu-based contact center, we are able to break the language barrier once removed by a number of our Visayan subscribers today," said Joe Cohen, head of Customer Experience. "Customers will now be delighted to find their own dedicated agents who are based in Cebu truly understand our customers in their language and can converse with them fluently to provide solutions to their needs."

With the launch of this language option, Visayan-speaking customers will now have access to Globe/TM sales and after-sales services through a dedicated Visayan Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). To access the new language option, just dial 730-1000 (Landline) or 211 (mobile). By following the call service IVRS voice prompts (in Visayan), callers are directed to a Visayan-speaking customer service representative based in Cebu. Visayan-speaking customers can inquire about any Globe mobile, Landline or Broadband services for sales, rate or tech concerns.



GLOBE president and CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Aegis People Support president Rong Rong Santos flip Globe senior executives Peter Bithos and Joe Cohen during the Globe Prepaid Customer Service launch

In addition to the existing 730-1000 toll-free number, customers can also conveniently leave and avail of the latest offers by calling our dedicated sales hotline at 302 730-1000 toll-free from any Globe mobile or landline nationwide.

This hotline service is done in partnership with Aegis People Support, both Philippine and Filipino Global brand of the leaders in customer contact firms in the global business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Aside from this hotline service, Globe has an up additional self-service channels to allow customers to transact with Globe anytime of the day. These new 730-1000 channels include a chat service available on the Globe website or via Yahoo! Messenger by adding "730.1000.CHAT" as your IM buddy. This free service provides real-time feedback from live customer service representatives who are on duty 24/7.

Globe subscribers anywhere in the Philippines can also chat with our agents through SMS by simply texting HELP to 1234 for free.

Last Feb. 14, Globe also launched "1430", an easy-to-use quick service menu that allows subscribers to access basic information on Globe promos. Customers can now inquire and subscribe to call, text and browsing services at the touch of a button without having to memorize registration codes and access numbers.

This free service also features quick access to G-Cash transactions, downloadables, information services, and Here-A-Load. The menu can be accessed through any phones by simply dialing "1430".

Petron receives prestigious MAP award

THE country's leading oil company Petron Corp. recently marked another milestone as it bagged its most coveted distinction from the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), including the inaugural CSR Award for its success in making social responsibility an essential part of its business operations.

A first conferred by any other oil company, Petron bagged the prestigious inaugural CSR Award at the 2nd MAP CSR Leadership Challenge for its "Growing, Greening, Giving Back: Making CSR and Sustainability a way of life in Petron" strategy along with the Best in Environment and Sustainable Development Special Award for its "Measuring, Managing and Minimizing our Environment Footprint in Botaan" program.

In receiving the inaugural CSR Award, the MAP panel of judges cited Petron's relentless efforts to integrate social responsibility into its overall corporate strategy, as shown by the company's commitment to care for the community and the environment, while achieving its economic objectives.

"Our leadership in the oil industry is also tested by our commitment to create a positive impact on every Filipino whose lives we touch on a daily basis," Petron Chair and CEO Ramon S. Ang said. "This means conducting our business in a manner that places equal importance on our social and environmental commitments together with our financial objectives."

"We see the value of CSR in enhancing our business and its role in ensuring the long-term success of our business," Ang added.

Meanwhile, in winning the Special Award for Environment and Sustainable Development, MAP recognized the company's initiatives to preserve and protect the environment and promote sustainable development in the Province of Bataan, particularly in effectively managing its water use and consumption, waste generation, greenhouse gas accounting and air emissions inventory as well as its leadership in implementing the Bataan Integrated Coastal Management Program.

PETRON president Eric O. Recto (center), together with Petron Foundation executive director Maritess B. Luz (third from left), Petron environment manager Edith S. Estrella (third from right) receive the prestigious inaugural CSR Award and the Environment and Sustainable Development Special Award at the 2nd MAP CSR Leadership Challenge. Also in photo are Petron Human Resources Management Department head Ms. Rosario O. Vergel De Dios (far left), Petron Marketing SVP Ricardo Nivel (second from left), ORIX Corporation Human Resources head Ms. Cristina M. Mercene (second from right), and Petron VP for Supply and Operations Roxanne O. Gomez (far right).

GroupM PH's Power of One benefits Mangyan tribe

THE LARGEST media investment company in the country, GroupM Philippines gives back to the community by brightening the lives of the impoverished Mangyan tribes of Mindoro.

Through its annual "Power of One" event, GroupM Philippines is providing solar panels to illuminate the nights and hopefully, the Mangyan way of life. By working with Project Mulawin, an NGO that has taken the cudgel for the Mangyangs, GroupM will buy, bring and install enough solar panels for four Mangyan villages. In addition, it is promoting an ingenious system to bring clean drinking water to these families.

GroupM Philippines CEO Medoy E. Quingco says, "The Mangyans are among the most underprivileged in the Philippines. Believe it or not, they're not connected by modern life, without education, sustainable livelihood, basic healthcare, and even everyday necessities like plumbing and electricity."

At the heart of the problem is the lack of light and enlightenment. Clinging to their ancestral lands, the Mangyans are too remote to benefit from the public school system. With only rudimentary math and business skills, those that trade their meager crops are often disadvantaged by the exploitative lowlanders.

This leaves them approximately P14 a day for food, medicine and DPO if they're lucky.

Mangyan parents who do realize the value of education send their children on foot, to school as far as three hours away. Where the pupils return home in the evening, homework is pain-takingly done by gaslight. If all the DPs that have saved up to the cooking, children cut their only footwear—disguised rubber slippers—into flammable wicks.

When gas is scarce, so is potable water. Contaminated, unsanitized water, carried back from far away streams and rivers, bring disease-causing microbes. Sadly, common diarrhea is still a major killer of the Mangyans.

To ease misery for the Mangyans, employees of GroupM and its agencies—Mindshare, Mediacom, MEC and Maxus—pledged donations from their salaries. On top of that, they "pay" one pass for every use of the office conference room, theaters, coffee vending machines and restrooms—conveniences they normally enjoy for free.

Whatever amount they raise is matched by GroupM management. Moved by the plight of the Mangyans, GroupM partner companies and their employees also contributed to its Power of One cause.

Tan Yan Kee, PCCED name Project Citizen winners

THE TAN Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. (TYKFI) of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies and the Philippine Center for Civic Education and Democracy (PCCED) recently named and awarded the 2011 winners of Project Citizen Philippines.

Project Citizen is a licensed program from the Center for Civic Education based in the United States and runs in some 80 countries worldwide, with PCCED handling the project in the Philippines and TYKFI as its partner. It requires secondary level students, especially public schools, in the most effective manner of proactive citizenship in a reasoned exchange involving all possible stakeholders. Participating youth-as-awareness and students undergo study and hands-on practice on problem identification within their communities, factual research, identifying current and relevant laws, coming up with proposed policies, and ensuring buy-in by public and private sector stakeholders through dialogue and other forms of communication. Student showcases are screened, presented in a preliminary encounter, and in the final showcase.

Project Citizen 2011 winners are: Tan Yan Kee Best Showcase, Las Piñas National High School for High Volume of Plastic Waste in Las Piñas; Dr. Lucio C. Tan Award for Science, Second: Pio del Pilar High School; Team 1 for Plastic Pollution in School; Chua King Ha Award for Women Empowerment, Bagong Silangan High School for Outstanding Student Participation; Best Portfolio, Tala High School for Life of the "Living Dead" Brigina Agustin Bayona; Best Performance, Baranay Hills National High School for Overcrowding in Barangay Hills National High School; Best Presentation, Malabon National High School for Malnutrition. The Roundtable of Democracy Award was not given for this year.

A number of Project Citizen classrooms have already been adopted by different cities and barangays where the student teams conducted the projects. Among these: Mandaluyong mayor set an ordinance on the implementation of the smoking ban within school perimeters as promoted by the Pedro L. Diaz High School; Barangay Bureau, Tinambac, Barangay Bureau, Tinambac, Camarines Sur, the adoption of the team from Barangay Lote Memorial High School and has established women and children's desk for victims of violence. Bagong Silangan High School has the most number of policy proposals to be created and implemented by their local government. These are the relocation of the public market, the construction and maintenance of retaining walls along the creek near the school, the opening of a community garden, and the relocation of PUJ and tricycle terminals. Las Piñas National High School generated approval and establishment of three barangay outposts to monitor students specifically in increasing truancy.

CDO nutrition program cited

MALNUTRITION in Barangay province has improved in reading in terms of the nutritional status of its residents, thanks to a supplemental feeding program initiated by local manufacturing firm CDO-Foodsphere Inc.

From being the town with the second highest incidence of malnutrition among 31 municipalities and four cities in Barangay in 2010, Malnu's ranking leapfrogged to 16th place in 2011.

"Hopefully, we would no longer be included in the list of ten Barangay towns with highest incidence of malnutrition this year," said Malnut Municipal Health officer Sabina Vanguardia. The Department of Health will conduct its annual weighing of children in Barangay province in the first quarter of 2012.

Vanguardia made the statement during the recent graduation ceremony of 150 children beneficiaries of the Cabay Scavengers supplemental feeding program initiated by CDO-Foodsphere through its humanitarian arm Odyssey Foundation Inc. with the cooperation of the Malnut municipal government.

During the ceremony held in Barangay Poblacion in Malnut on Jan. 9, the 150 children beneficiaries, who were previously underweight, received a clean bill of health, proving that their weight have been restored to normal. They, after undergoing the supplemental feeding program wherein they received food and medicine for 64 days.

The 150 children belong to the third batch of beneficiaries of the supplemental feeding program in Malnut town and the 19th batch nationwide, since 2005. A total of 3,000 children and 7,000 children from all over the country have benefited from the nutrition program of Odyssey Foundation, CDO-Foodsphere, and their partner organizations since 2005.

Smart snacking made simple

AT [13,000 TO wrap up the school year, it's during this time that parents usually plan their summer outings in the beach, or prepare for their kids' out-of-town vacations with other relatives. Throughout all this segments and expectation, it is easy to forget that summer only starts after final exams have been completed. Preparing for these final exams is often a stressful and demanding activity. On the other hand, it allows parents and children to bond and work together in turning the summer task of studying into something more interactive and fun. According to study experts, this is a sure-fire way to help a child learn. Aside from the bond provided through hands-on guidance, parents should make sure that their kids are eating the right food. In order to rise the brain's capacity for storing knowledge. Research shows that maintaining balanced levels of Iron and B-Vitamins for the duration of the study and exam periods will definitely aid in keeping a child's brain active. Iron-rich foods such as beef and pork are ideal for this purpose. Complementing this with brain-boosting vitamin B-based nutrients like Zinc will help enhance memory forces. "Smart snacking" is made even easier with Argentina Instant Milkdrink, a nutritious and tasty treat that is fortified with zinc (Active Brain Building Choline). It is rich in protein, and has Iron and B Vitamins necessary for the purposes of studying.

Beer Below Zero bares expansion plans

BEER Below Zero International, Inc. (BBZI), the group responsible for introducing the frosted beers served at sub-zero temperatures in the Philippines, has confirmed its international expansion plans by forming a joint venture company with DMM Marketing Global Ltd. (DMG). The new company will be called BBZ Asia, Ltd. The new company was formed after months of discussions between BBZI and DMG who together have recognized the major synergies that both companies may offer each other in the field of marketing and promotions. Companies under the DMG group are principally involved in providing marketing solutions to marketers in the FMCG industry and have vast and wider networks in the retail industry, with a great presence in Asia-Pacific region. DMG is delighted to now be able to offer its existing clients a complete range of marketing services via the new joint venture company and is equally looking forward to developing new relationships within new territories. BBZ Asia, Ltd., will be raising $3 million to fulfill its commitment to deploy at least 1,000 outlets in key cities within the Asia-Pacific region.

Notice to the Public

This is to warn all patients with kidney stones who are taking **"ROWATINEX"** capsules (with Certificate of Product Registration No. DR-XY 23131) that there are counterfeit ROWATINEX capsules circulating in the market. While New Marketlink Pharmaceutical Corporation (NMPC) (Exclusive Distributor) has a program to aggressively pursue those who engage in these practices, some counterfeit products still find its way into the marketplace.

We regret to inform you that we are not able to guarantee the efficacy and quality of the counterfeit ROWATINEX capsules and that NMPC will not be liable for any claims and/or damages that may result from taking these counterfeit products.

If you believe you have purchased counterfeit ROWATINEX capsules, or if you need additional information on how to identify original ROWATINEX capsules, please contact NMPC at the information provided below.

Right Photo shows the authentic ROWATINEX capsules in the FDA approved generic labelling. Left Photo shows a sample of the counterfeit ROWATINEX.

counterfeit ROWATINEX

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INVITATION TO BID

No.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION/ AMOUNT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (in Philippine Pesos)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS (in Philippine Pesos)	DATE OF WORK
1	Procurement of the generator set for the Construction of Port Site Control Tower at Tubli Bay, Bataan	Tubli Bay and Mariveles, Tubli Bay, Bataan	[illegible]	[illegible]	Three (3) to Six (6) Days of Delivery

No.	Activity	Venue	Time & Date
1	Pre-bid Conference	The Administrator's Office, Cluster 02, 2/F	March 27, 2012 (Tuesday) 10:00 A.M.
2	Deadline for the submission and receipt of bids	The Administrator's Office, Cluster 02, 2/F	March 30, 2012 (Friday) 10:00 A.M.
3	Public opening of bids	The Administrator's Office, Cluster 02, 2/F	March 30, 2012 (Friday) 10:00 A.M.

PRIME PROPERTIES FOR BIDDING

(1) Along Roxas Boulevard (Parañaque City)
- **IRC Mapalad Property**
- **4,038 sq.m.**
- **Minimum Bid Price : P278,622,000.00**

(2) Near The Mansion (Baguio City)
- **Hans Menzi Compound Property**
- **3,875.57 sq.m.**
- **Minimum Bid Price : P37,245,850.00**

Availability of Bid Documents : 19 March to 04 April 2012, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City

Date of Sealed Public Bidding: 24 April 2012
Bidding Time: 10:00 a.m. for Hans Menzi Compound and 2:00 p.m. for Mapalad Property

For particulars, call Ms. Alma M. Provido at tel. nos. 9079127 or 7256958

www.pcgg.gov.ph

PCGG BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

COPE and JOIN our English Proficiency Seminar-Workshops!

Schedule:
- Saturday Sessions : Mar 24, Mar 31 & Apr 7, 2012 (Asian Social Inst.)
- Sunday Sessions : Mar 25, Apr 1 & Apr 8, 2012 (UP Diliman)
- Time : 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venues:
- UP Asian Institute, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
- Asian Social Institute, 2338 Leon Guinto St. Malate, Manila

Advance registration is required. Please register now! For more info, contact: (02) 584.8855, 0927.4344.365, 0905.764.6083

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Email us: [illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

LOT	DESCRIPTION	ABC
Lot 1	Water Softener, Complete Turbine, Deep-well Pump Turbine	P [illegible]
Lot 2	Water Equipment	P [illegible]

NO.	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	VENUE
1	Advertisement / Posting of IB (Request for Expression of Interest)	March 18 until April 1, 2012	
2	Issuance of Bid Documents	March 19 to April 1, 2012	Dept'l. Supply Unit
3	Pre-Bid Conference	March 21, 2012	Dept'l. Mini Conference Hall
4	Opening of Bids	April 2, 2012 10:00 AM	Dept'l. Mini Conference Hall
5	Bid Evaluation / Post Qualification	April 3-4, 2012	Dept'l. Regional Office (s)
6	Issuance/Notice of Award	April 10, 2012	Dept'l. Regional Office (s)
7	Contract Preparation	April 11, 2012	Dept'l. Regional Office (s)
8	Notice to Proceed	April 12, 2012	Dept'l. Regional Office (s)

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Network International (NI) is implementing the Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Renewable Energy Development (AMORE 3) Program, in partnership with the US Agency for International Development, the Philippines Department of Energy (DOE), and SunPower Foundation. Through its partnership with the DOE, the AMORE 3 Program seeks to assist the Philippine government extend renewable energy-based rural electricity services to unserviced and underserved household in remote communities in Mindanao. In Phases 1 and 2, AMORE3 supported the electrification of more than 10,000 households in 414 communities in Mindanao. It is currently working to provide access to renewable energy-based electricity to more households using innovative commercial approaches.

NI-AMORE 3 is requesting qualified organizations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the project described below through a letter. Qualified organizations are those that have been engaged in the past and who exhibit the best Pre-EOI. Detailed information such as the nature and amount of work, project site within the same of the clients must be included in the EOI.

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery and Installation of Solar Home Systems, Solar Lanterns and components of Battery Charging Stations under BOM 3.

Project Location : The provinces of Tawi-tawi, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat

Budget : Four million three hundred forty one thousand peso only (Php 4,341,000.00)

Interested qualified parties may send their Expression of Interest via email to:

Mr. Leny P. Ranes
Senior Procurement Specialist
Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Renewable/ Rural Energy Development (AMORE 3) Program
Unit 05, 6/F Landco Corporate Center, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Lapida, 8000 Davao City
Email address: lranes.ea@amore3initiative.org

Bid Documents shall be made available only to qualified parties that have submitted their EOIs with complete information as required above. Deadline for submission of EOIs is on March 30, 2012, 5:00 pm.

Attendance and participation in the Pre-Bid Conference shall be limited to those who will be issued the Bid Documents.

Dept. / Laarni B. Mandoni
Chief of Party

JHMC

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE REHABILITATION WITH STRUCTURAL SURVEY AND UTILITY SURVEY FOR THE TWELVE (12) BARANGAYS WITHIN THE JOHN HAY RECREATIONAL AREA (JHRA)

1. The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the rehabilitation with structural survey and utility survey for the twelve (12) Barangays within the John Hay Recreational Area (JHRA), duly endorsed in accordance with the Barangay Ordinance No. 2011-[illegible] by the Barangay Council of Barangay [illegible] within the John Hay Recreational Area (JHRA).
2. The JHAC shall short-list the number of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents and who have been invited to participate in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short-listed shall consist of five (5) prospective bidders who will be entitled to submit bids. The short-listing system to short-listing shall be:

Criteria	Rating
a. Applicable experience of the consultant and associates with at least 5 years	40%
b. Qualification of principals and key staff to the consultant with who may be assigned to the job and evaluation over complexity of the undertaking	40%
c. Current workload relative to capacity	20%

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184.
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
5. The Pre-bidding Entry shall consider bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) procedure. The Procurement Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the short-listing shall be made available to the bidders by the JHMC.
6. The contract shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days.
7. The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Jacqueline T. Domingo
BAC Secretariat
Tel/Fax: 667-7000 loc. 4102
Cell No.: 0916-4545-888
www.jhmc.com.ph

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNOLD M. GUNIO-ARCE**
BAC Chairperson

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